

1 Samuel 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:

Analysis

After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:

The third sign occurs at Gibeah (gib'at ha'elohim, 'hill of God'), significantly also Saul's hometown. The juxtaposition of a Philistine garrison at 'God's hill' emphasizes Israel's subjugation and the urgent need for deliverance. The 'company of prophets' (chevel nevi'im) refers to a prophetic band or school, an institution Samuel apparently established to preserve and teach God's word during spiritually dark times. The musical instruments - psaltery (nebel, a harp-like instrument), tabret (toph, a hand drum), pipe (chalil, a flute), and harp (kinnor, David's instrument) - accompanied prophetic worship. Music in Israel facilitated spiritual receptivity to God's Spirit, a pattern seen throughout Scripture. These prophets 'coming down' from worship would meet Saul ascending, symbolizing the intersection of divine initiative and human response.

Historical Context

Prophetic schools or guilds appear to have been organized communities dedicated to preserving and proclaiming God's word. Samuel likely established these groups to counter the corruption at Shiloh. The Philistine garrison at Gibeah demonstrates their dominance over Israel during this period, which Saul's son Jonathan would later attack (1 Samuel 13:3).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the presence of faithful prophets during Israel's spiritual decline encourage believers living in secular cultures?
2. What role does music and corporate worship play in your spiritual sensitivity to God?

appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

2 Kings 2:5 (Prophecy): And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

2 Kings 2:15 (Prophecy): And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

2 Kings 2:3 (Prophecy): And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

1 Samuel 10:10 (Prophecy): And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.