

1 Samuel 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

Analysis

And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

This verse marks a pivotal moment in redemptive history as Samuel predicts the Spirit's empowerment of Israel's first king. The Hebrew 'tsalach' (come upon) implies a rushing or overwhelming force, the same word used of Samson (Judges 14:6, 19; 15:14). Unlike the permanent indwelling believers experience under the New Covenant, Old Testament Spirit empowerment was typically temporary and task-specific. The phrase 'turned into another man' (nehepakte le'ish acher) indicates genuine transformation, not mere external change. This raises profound questions about Saul's later apostasy: how could one so transformed fall so far? Reformed theology recognizes that powerful spiritual experiences do not guarantee persevering faith; only God's electing grace preserves His chosen ones. Saul's prophesying authenticated his divine calling publicly, yet his subsequent history warns that spiritual gifts are not evidence of saving grace.

Historical Context

Spirit empowerment in the Old Testament typically enabled leaders for specific tasks: Moses for leadership, Bezalel for craftsmanship, judges for deliverance, and now Saul for kingship. The prophesying likely involved ecstatic praise and

proclamation rather than predictive prophecy, similar to the seventy elders in Numbers 11:25.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do we reconcile powerful spiritual experiences with the possibility of eventual apostasy?
2. What is the difference between Spirit empowerment for service and saving faith that perseveres?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּם הַ	עַל יְהִי	רִים	יְהִי הַ	וְהַתְּנִבֵּה יְתִ
will come	H5921	And the Spirit	of the LORD	upon thee and thou shalt prophesy
H6743		H7307	H3068	H5012
וְעַתָּה	וְנִזְמַנְתָּ	לֹא יְשַׁ	אֶחָר:	
H5973	with them and shalt be turned	man	into another	
	H2015	H376	H312	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 10:10 (Spirit): 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.

Numbers 11:25 (Spirit): And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

1 Samuel 16:13 (Spirit): Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Judges 3:10 (Spirit): And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

Judges 14:6 (Spirit): And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

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