

1 Samuel 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

Analysis

And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

Samuel's instruction 'do as occasion serve thee' translates the Hebrew 'aseh leka asher timtsa yadeka' - literally, 'do for yourself what your hand finds.' This grants Saul significant freedom to act according to circumstances as they arise. The foundation for such liberty is the assuring promise: 'God is with thee' (ha'elohim immak). This covenantal formula echoes God's promises to the patriarchs and later to David. It indicates divine presence, protection, and empowerment for the tasks ahead. However, this freedom operates within bounds Samuel will shortly specify (verse 8). The tension between Spirit-led initiative and prophetic instruction would become the testing ground for Saul's kingship. His failure to wait for Samuel at Gilgal (chapter 13) demonstrates the danger of presuming upon this freedom without maintaining proper boundaries of authority and obedience.

Historical Context

The phrase 'God is with you' (Immanuel theology) runs throughout Scripture as a foundational promise to covenant leaders. It assured Abraham (Genesis 21:22), Isaac (Genesis 26:28), Jacob (Genesis 28:15), Moses (Exodus 3:12), Joshua (Joshua 1:5), and later David. This promise distinguished Israel's kings from pagan monarchs who claimed divine status.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance Spirit-led initiative with adherence to biblical boundaries and authority structures?
2. What comfort and responsibility does the promise 'God is with you' bring to your life?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה	כִּי	תָבֹא	אֵינָהּ	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
H1961	H3588					
		are come		And let it be when these signs		
		H935		H226		
עָשִׂהָ		לְךָ	אֲשֶׁר	רָאָה	תִּמְצָא	אֲשֶׁר
unto thee that thou do		H0	H834	as occasion	serve	H3588
H6213				H4672	H3027	
						thee for God
						H430
עִמָּךְ:						
H5973						

Additional Cross-References

Judges 6:12 (Parallel theme): And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

Luke 2:12 (Parallel theme): And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Joshua 1:5 (Parallel theme): There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5 (Parallel theme): Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Isaiah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Exodus 4:8 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

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