

1 Samuel 10:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

Analysis

And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

The Hebrew 'haphak lev acher' (gave him another heart) indicates a genuine divine work of transformation. The verb 'haphak' means to turn, overturn, or transform completely. This is not merely outward change but internal renewal enabling Saul for his calling. Yet this transformation, however real, differs from the regeneration described in Ezekiel 36:26 and the New Testament. Saul received capacity for royal service, not necessarily a new nature in the soteriological sense. The immediate fulfillment of all three signs 'that day' (bayom hahu) validated Samuel's prophetic authority and confirmed God's choice of Saul. This condensed timeline of divine orchestration demonstrates God's complete sovereignty over circumstances and people. The signs were not magic but divine appointments - God arranging His world to communicate His purposes to His chosen servant.

Historical Context

The concept of God changing hearts appears throughout the Old Testament, both for enabling obedience (as here and with David) and for hardening in judgment (as with Pharaoh). Israel's king was to be fundamentally different from pagan monarchs, transformed by God rather than claiming inherent divine nature.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that God can change hearts inform your prayers for others?
2. What is the difference between God's transforming work for service and the new birth unto salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה	כְּהִפְּנֵת וְ	שְׁכָמוֹ	לָלָךְ כֵּת	מֵעַם			
H1961	And it was so that when he had turned	his back	H1980	H5973			
	H6437	H7926					
לְשִׁמְוֵאל	וְהִפָּךְ	לִי בְּ	אֶחָד	וַיָּבֹא אֵלָיו			
from Samuel	gave	H0	God	heart	him another	came	H3605
H8050	H2015		H430	H3820	H312	H935	
וְכָל	הָאֵלֹהִים	בְּיָמָיו	הָיוּ:	וְהָיָה			
and all those signs	H428	to pass that day	H1931				
H226		H3117					