

1 Samuel 11:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

Analysis

Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

Samuel's call to 'renew the kingdom' at Gilgal indicates a recommitment ceremony, not a second coronation. Gilgal held profound significance as the site where Israel first camped after crossing the Jordan (Joshua 4:19) and where circumcision renewed the covenant (Joshua 5:2-9). By choosing Gilgal, Samuel connects Saul's confirmed kingship to Israel's foundational covenant relationship with Yahweh. The renewal implies that Saul's proven leadership through the Ammonite crisis has legitimized what some had questioned.

Historical Context

Gilgal, meaning 'circle' or 'rolling,' commemorated God 'rolling away' the reproach of Egypt (Joshua 5:9). It served as Israel's first base of operations in Canaan and retained sacred significance. Later, it would become associated with Saul's failures (1 Samuel 13:8-14; 15:12-23).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why is returning to foundational commitments important after experiencing God's deliverance?
2. How do significant places in our spiritual journey become occasions for renewed dedication?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל הָעָם לֵאמֹר וְנִלְכֶּה לְגִלְגָּל
Then said **Samuel** H413 **to the people** H1980 H1980 **to Gilgal**
H559 H8050 H5971 H1537

וְנִחַדְתִּי שָׁמָּה הַמְּלִיכָה:
and renew H8033 **the kingdom**
H2318 H4410

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 10:8 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

1 Samuel 7:16 (Parallel theme): And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.