

1 Samuel 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

Analysis

Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

Samuel's interruption - 'Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night' - announces prophetic revelation superseding royal excuse. The word 'Stay' (raphah, 'sink down' or 'let alone') commands Saul to stop his self-justification and listen. Samuel claims direct divine communication 'this night' - while Saul erected monuments, God spoke judgment. The authority of prophetic word over royal word establishes a fundamental principle: kings are accountable to God through His prophets.

Historical Context

The prophetic formula 'what the LORD hath said' claimed divine authority for the following words. Samuel's nighttime revelation established that prophets received God's verdicts before confronting kings. This pattern continued throughout Israelite monarchy.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When do our excuses need to be interrupted by God's word?
2. What is the proper response when prophetic correction cuts off self-justification?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	שְׁמוּאֵל	אֶל	שָׁאֻל	הֶרְף	וְאֵגְידָה	לְךָ	אֵת
And he said	Then Samuel	H413	unto Saul	Stay	and I will tell	H0	H853
H559	H8050		H7586	H7503	H5046		
אֵשׁ ר	יִדְבָּר:	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	הַלְיָלָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	ל	
H834	hath said	thee what the LORD	H413	to me this night	And he said	H0	
	H1696	H3068		H3915	H559		
יִדְבָּר:							
hath said							
H1696							