

1 Samuel 15:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

Analysis

And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

Samuel's refusal - 'I will not return with thee' - withdraws prophetic support from Saul's reign. The prophet restates the verdict: 'thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.' The repetition emphasizes finality. Samuel's withdrawal is not personal rejection but prophetic witness to divine verdict. By refusing to accompany Saul to worship, Samuel demonstrates that religious ritual cannot proceed as if nothing has changed when fundamental covenant violation has occurred.

Historical Context

Prophetic withdrawal from kings marked divine judgment throughout Israel's history. Elijah's flight from Ahab and prophetic opposition to various kings followed this pattern. Samuel's refusal established the precedent.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When should religious leaders withdraw from lending legitimacy to disobedient leadership?
2. What does Samuel's refusal teach about the relationship between prophetic ministry and royal authority?

Interlinear Text

כִּי עָפָת בְּ אֶשְׁתָּבוֹא לֹא שָׁא וְלֹא שְׁמֹואָל וְיָאמַר
said And Samuel H413 unto Saul H3808 I will not return H5973 H3588
H559 H8050 H7586 H7725

יְהִי הָרָקָעָן וְיִמְאַסֵּב אֶת דְּבָר יְהִי הָרָקָעָן וְיִמְאַסֵּב
hath rejected H853 the word and the LORD hath rejected and the LORD
H3988 H1697 H3068 H3988 H3068

מְהִי וְתַּחֲזִק לְךָ עַל שְׁבָאָל! מְהִי וְתַּחֲזִק
H1961 thee from being king H5921 over Israel H4428 H3478

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 4:6 (Word): My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

1 Samuel 13:14 (Kingdom): But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

1 Samuel 16:1 (Kingdom): And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine

horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

Jeremiah 6:19 (Word): Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

1 Samuel 15:23 (Kingdom): For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Samuel 2:30 (References Lord): Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

1 Samuel 15:31 (References Lord): So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

2 John 1:11 (Parallel theme): For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Genesis 42:38 (Parallel theme): And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.