

# 1 Samuel 15:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

## Analysis

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**And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.**

As Samuel turns to leave, Saul 'laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.' This desperate physical gesture produces a powerful prophetic symbol. Saul grasps for what he is losing - Samuel's support, divine favor, the kingdom itself. The torn garment becomes an object lesson that Samuel will interpret. The Hebrew qara ('rent' or 'tore') appears again in the interpretation. Saul's grasping desperation literally creates the symbol of his loss.

## Historical Context

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The mantle (me'il) was the outer robe associated with prophetic office. Tearing garments symbolized mourning and distress. The torn piece of Samuel's robe anticipates Ahijah's later symbolic action with Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:30-31).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What do our desperate grasping moments reveal about what we truly value?
2. How does God sometimes use our own actions to illustrate spiritual realities?

## Interlinear Text

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מַעַילׁ וְ בְּכֶבֶד יִשְׁבַּע שָׁמוֹאֵל לְלֹכֶת תִּחְזַק אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וְיִשְׁבַּע:  
turned about And as Samuel he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle

H5437

H8050

H1980

H2388

H3671

H4598

וְיִקְרַעַ:

and it rent

H7167

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