

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

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

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

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

וַיִּסָּב	וַיִּסָּב	וַיִּסָּב	וַיִּסָּב	וַיִּסָּב	וַיִּסָּב
turned about	And as Samuel	H1980	he laid hold	upon the skirt	of his mantle
H5437	H8050		H2388	H3671	H4598
וַיִּקְרַע					
and it rent					
H7167					

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