

1 Samuel 15:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

Analysis

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

The paths separate: 'Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.' Each returns to his own place, their relationship severed. Ramah was Samuel's hometown and prophetic headquarters; Gibeah was Saul's capital. The geographic separation symbolizes the spiritual divide. The phrase 'Gibeah of Saul' rather than simply 'Gibeah' emphasizes Saul's identification with the place - he returns to his own domain, cut off from prophetic guidance.

Historical Context

Ramah (modern er-Ram) was approximately five miles north of Jerusalem; Gibeah was three miles north of Jerusalem. These neighboring towns would host the separated prophet and king for the remainder of their ministries. Their proximity made the relational distance more poignant.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does geographic separation symbolize about spiritual relationships?
2. How do we understand continuing to function in our roles after fundamental relationships are broken?

Interlinear Text

בֵּית זֶה אֶל עַל הַשָּׁאוֹל:
H1980 Then Samuel to Ramah and Saul went up H413 to his house
H8050 H7414 H7586 H5927 H1004

גִּבְעָה תְּשִׁאָוָל:
H1390 to Gibeah and Saul H7586

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 11:4 (Parallel theme): Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

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