

# 1 Samuel 15:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

## Analysis

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**And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.**

The chapter concludes with profound grief: 'Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul.' The Hebrew *aval* ('mourned') describes grief as for the dead. Samuel mourns not Saul's death but the death of what Saul could have been. The final note - 'and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel' - returns to verse 11's theme. Divine grief bookends this chapter of rejection. God and prophet together mourn the tragedy of rejected grace.

## Historical Context

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Samuel's mourning reflects the depth of his investment in Saul. As the prophet who anointed him and announced God's choice, Samuel bore personal grief at Saul's failure. This ongoing mourning would require divine intervention to end (16:1).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to mourn for the living - for what someone could have been?
2. How do divine grief and prophetic grief together witness to the tragedy of rejected grace?

## Interlinear Text

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וְלֹא	יָסַף	וְשָׁמוּאֵל	לִרְאֹתָ	אֶת	שָׂא	וְעַד	יּוֹם
H3808	came no more H3254	And Samuel H8050	to see H7200	H853	Saul H7586	H5704	until the day H3117
מֹתוֹ	כִּי	הִתְאַבֵּל	וְשָׁמוּאֵל	אֶל	שָׂא	וְיְהוָה	
of his death H4194	nevertheless H3588	mourned H56	And Samuel H8050	H413	Saul H7586	and the LORD H3068	
נִחַם	כִּי	הַמֶּלֶךְ יְרֵךְ	אֶת	שָׂא	וְעַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	
repented H5162	nevertheless H3588	king H4427	H853	Saul H7586	H5921	over Israel H3478	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 19:24** (Parallel theme): And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?

**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.

**1 Samuel 15:11** (Kingdom): It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

**Genesis 6:6** (Creation): And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

**Philippians 3:18** (Parallel theme): (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: