

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

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

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

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

וְلֹא	יָסַר	לְשָׁמְרָא	לְרֹא	וְתַ	אַת	שָׁא	וְלַ	עַד	וְ	וְ
H3808	came no more	And Samuel	to see	H853	Saul	H5704	until the day			
H3254		H8050	H7200		H7586	H3117				
מוֹת	וְ	לְהַתָּאֵב	לְשָׁמְרָא	אַל	שָׁא	וְלַ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ
of his death	nevertheless	mourned	And Samuel	H413	Saul	and the LORD				
H4194	H3588	H56	H8050	H7586	H3068					
נִכְרָה	וְ	מֶלֶךְ	אַת	עַל	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ
repented	nevertheless	king	H853	Saul	H5921	over Israel				
H5162	H3588	H4427		H7586	H3478					

Additional Cross-References

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:

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