

1 Samuel 16:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

God's rebuke of Samuel's prolonged mourning reveals the divine imperative to move forward when God has spoken. The Hebrew male' (fill) indicates complete consecration for a sacred task. Bethlehem emerges as the unlikely source of Israel's greatest king, foreshadowing its role as the birthplace of the Messiah. God's declaration 'I have provided me a king' uses the verb ra'ah (to see/provide), connecting to Abraham's naming of Moriah. Divine election operates independently of human merit or expectation.

Historical Context

Samuel's journey to Bethlehem (c. 1025 BCE) occurred during Saul's declining reign. The prophet school at Ramah had become Samuel's base of operations. Bethlehem, though small, held significance as the burial place of Rachel and ancestral home of the tribe of Judah.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When has God called you to move forward from a situation you were grieving or mourning?
2. How does God's sovereign provision of David encourage you to trust His timing in raising up leaders?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	שְׁמוּאֵל	עַד	מִתִּי	אֶתָּה
said		And the LORD		unto Samuel			
H559		H3068	H413	H8050	H5704	H4970	H859
מִתְאַבֵּל	לִ		אֶל	וְאֵין	יֵשׁ	וְלֹא	מֵאַסְתָּ יוֹ
How long wilt thou mourn			for Saul		seeing	I have rejected	
H56			H413	H7586	H589		H3988
מִמֶּלֶךְ	לְ		עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לִ	מִלֵּא	אֶת
him from reigning			over Israel		fill	thine horn	with oil
H4427		H5921	H3478	H4390	H7161		H1980
אֶשְׁלָחְךָ	אֶל	יֵשׁ	בֵּית	הַלְחֵמִי	כִּי	כֹּא	יִתִּי
I will send		thee to Jesse		the Bethlehemite		for I have provided	
H7971	H413	H3448	H0	H1022	H3588		H7200
בְּבָנָי	לִ	מֶלֶךְ					
among his sons		me a king					
H1121		H4428					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 9:1 (Parallel theme): And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead:

1 Samuel 15:23 (Kingdom): For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Samuel 10:1 (References Lord): Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

1 Samuel 15:35 (Kingdom): 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.

1 Samuel 16:15 (Parallel theme): And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

Romans 15:12 (Kingdom): And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

1 Samuel 9:16 (References Israel): To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

1 Samuel 15:26 (Kingdom): And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

2 Kings 9:6 (Kingdom): And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel.

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.

