

1 Samuel 16:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Analysis

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

The anointing 'in the midst of his brethren' publicly designated David before witnesses while keeping the full significance concealed from broader society. The Spirit's coming 'from that day forward' (miyyom hahu wama'lah) marks permanent divine empowerment, contrasting with Saul's temporary or intermittent Spirit experiences. Samuel's departure to Ramah left David to return to his sheep, beginning the long period of preparation between anointing and coronation.

Historical Context

Anointing with oil symbolized the Spirit's empowering presence throughout the ancient Near East. Israel's use of anointing for kings, priests, and prophets set apart individuals for sacred service. The olive oil likely came from Samuel's horn, a vessel of personal significance carrying prophetic authority.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the gap between David's anointing and his reign inform your understanding of God's timing?
2. What does the Spirit's permanent presence on David teach about divine empowerment for calling?

Interlinear Text

אֶתֹּו	וַיִּמָּשֶׁחַ ח	הַשֶּׁמֶן מִן	קֶרֶן	אֶת שְׁמוּאֵל ל	וָקַח ח
H853	and anointed	of oil	the horn	So Samuel	took
	H4886	H8081	H7161	H8050	H3947
אֶל	יְהוָה	רוּחַ	וַתָּצֵל ח	אֶחָיו	בְּקֶרֶב רַב
H413	of the LORD	and the Spirit	came	of his brethren	him in the midst
	H3068	H7307	H6743	H251	H7130
וַיִּלָּךְ	שְׁמוּאֵל ל	וַיִּקָּם	וַמָּוֶלְדָּה	הָהּ וְאֵל	מִהֵנָּה וּמִ
H1980	So Samuel	rose up	forward	H1931	from that day
	H8050	H6965	H4605		H3117
					וַיִּבֶן דָּ
					upon David
					H1732
					הַרְמָתָה:
					to Ramah
					H7414

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 10:6 (Spirit): And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

Hebrews 1:9 (Parallel theme): Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

John 3:34 (Spirit): For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

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?

Judges 11:29 (Spirit): Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.

Numbers 27:18 (Spirit): And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

Judges 3:10 (Spirit): And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

1 Samuel 16:18 (References Lord): Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.