

1 Samuel 16:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

Analysis

Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

Saul's summons for 'David thy son, which is with the sheep' emphasizes both David's lowly occupation and his father's possession of him. The messenger terminology (mal'akim) suggests formal royal communication. Jesse would understand this as an honor - royal service for his youngest son - without knowing the deeper divine purpose. God wove human initiative and divine intention together seamlessly.

Historical Context

Service in the royal court provided social advancement, military training, and political connections. Jesse's compliance with the king's request was expected of loyal subjects. The formal nature of the summons indicates David was being officially recruited rather than casually borrowed.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How might seemingly ordinary opportunities be doorways to God's larger purposes?
2. What does God's use of royal summons teach about His sovereignty over political structures?

Interlinear Text

שָׁלַק הָנָן אֶל שָׁא וְשָׁלַק הָנָן
Send Wherefore Saul messengers unto Jesse and said Send
H7971 H7586 H4397 H413 H3448 H559 H7971

בְּאֵין אֲשֶׁר בְּתַת לְדֹת אֶת אָלָי
which is with the sheep
H413 H853 me David thy son H1732 H1121 H834 H6629

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 16:11 (Parallel theme): And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

1 Samuel 17:15 (References David): But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-lehem.