

1 Samuel 16:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

The therapeutic effect of David's music - Saul 'refreshed' (rawach), made 'well' (tov), with the evil spirit departing - demonstrates music's genuine spiritual power. The Hebrew suggests physical relief and restored breathing, indicating psychosomatic healing. Yet this relief was temporary, requiring repeated ministry. David's faithful service despite Saul's deteriorating condition models perseverance in difficult ministry circumstances.

Historical Context

The harp (kinnor) produced soothing tones suited to calming agitation. David's skill, developed through years of wilderness praise, now served immediate therapeutic purpose. The pattern of relief followed by return of symptoms characterizes Saul's spiritual condition throughout his remaining reign.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How might your Spirit-filled worship serve as ministry to troubled souls around you?
2. What does the temporary nature of Saul's relief teach about the limits of human remedies without genuine repentance?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הַ	בְּהֵי יוֹם	וְהָיָה הַ	אֵל אֱלֹהִים	אֵל
H1961	H1961		H413	
And it came to pass when the evil spirit from God				
H7307 H430				
וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ
H7586	H3947	H1732	H853	H3658
so Saul	took	that David	an harp	and played
H7586 H3947 H1732 H853 H3658				
וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ
H7304	H7586	H2895	H0	H5921
was refreshed	so Saul	and was well	departed	
H7304 H7586 H2895 H0 H5921				
וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ	וְהָיָה הַ
H7307	H7451			
And it came to pass when the evil spirit	and the evil			
H7307 H7451				