

1 Samuel 18:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

Analysis

And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

The evil spirit's return 'on the morrow' suggests immediate consequence of Saul's jealous response. His prophesying (yithnabe) in this context indicates uncontrolled, frenzied utterance - possibly ravings associated with his tormented state. David's faithful music ministry continued despite the toxic environment. The jarring image of Saul with javelin in hand while David played reveals the tension between David's service and Saul's murderous intent.

Historical Context

The Hebrew verb for 'prophesy' covers a range of ecstatic behavior, from genuine Spirit-inspired utterance to frenzied ranting. Saul's episodes may have resembled what surrounding cultures attributed to demonic possession. The javelin was both weapon and symbol of royal authority.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you continue faithful service when those you serve respond with hostility?
2. What does the coexistence of David's ministry and Saul's malice teach about persevering through opposition?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי י' H1961	מִמָּחָר ת' H4283	וַתָּצֵל ח' H6743	רוּחַ H7307	אֱלֹהֵי יִם H430
And it came	to pass on the morrow	came	spirit	from God
כִּעַ הַ H7451	אֶל H413	וַיִּנָּבֵא א' H5012	בְּתוֹךְ H8432	הַבַּיִת H1004
that the evil	in Saul's	and he prophesied	in the midst	of the house
וַדָּוִד H1732	מָנִיג H5059	בְּיָד H3027	בִּי וָם H3117	בִּי וָם H3117
and David	played	hand	as at other times	as at other times
וְהָיָה יֵת H2595	בְּיָד H3027	שָׁאוֹל: H7586		
and there was a javelin	hand	in Saul's		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:29 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

1 Samuel 19:9 (Spirit): And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

2 Thessalonians 2:11 (References God): And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Acts 16:16 (Spirit): And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

1 Samuel 16:23 (Spirit): 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.