

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 מִמְּחֻבָּת וַיַּצְאֵל רֹוחַ יְמִינָה אֱלֹהִים
H1961 And it came to pass on the morrow H4283 came H6743 spirit H7307 from God H430

פֶּתַח בְּתוֹךְ וַיְתַנְּבֵא שָׁאוֹל אֶל בְּעֵהֶה
that the evil H413 in Saul's H7586 and he prophesied H5012 in the midst H8432 of the house H1004

בְּיַד מִנְגָּד יְמִינָה וְבְיַד מִנְגָּד
and David H1732 played H5059 hand H3027 as at other times H3117 as at other times H3117

בְּיַד שָׁאוֹל וְבְיַד שָׁאוֹל יְתַחַנֵּן
and there was a javelin H2595 hand H3027 in Saul's H7586

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.

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