

1 Samuel 28:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

Analysis

Saul's oath 'As the LORD liveth' (Hebrew: 'chai-YHWH') represents the height of spiritual perversion: invoking YHWH's name to guarantee protection for practicing what YHWH has forbidden. The cognitive dissonance is stunning. Saul uses the most solemn oath formula of Israelite faith to enable violation of that faith's fundamental commands. This moment captures Saul's spiritual confusion: still using religious language while acting in complete opposition to religious requirements.

Historical Context

The oath formula 'As the LORD liveth' invoked God's own existence as guarantee. Its use here, protecting forbidden spiritual practices, illustrates how religious language can persist even when its substance has been abandoned.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can religious language and practices become divorced from genuine faith?
2. What warning does Saul's spiritual confusion offer to those who maintain forms without substance?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי הָעֵדָה בְּעֵד	לְאַמְרֵל שָׁא וְלַהְיוֹת	יְהִי הַמִּשְׁמָרָה	יְהִי הַמִּשְׁמָרָה	לְאַמְרֵל שָׁא וְלַהְיוֹת	יְהִי הַמִּשְׁמָרָה	יְהִי הַמִּשְׁמָרָה
sware H7650	H0	And Saul H7586	As the LORD H3068	saying H559	liveth H2416	As the LORD H3068
אָמַר יְהִי הַמִּשְׁמָרָה בְּדַבֵּר אָמַר	בְּדַבֵּר אָמַר יְהִי הַמִּשְׁמָרָה בְּדַבֵּר אָמַר					
there shall H518	happen H7136	no punishment H5771	to thee for this thing H1697			H2088

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