

1 Samuel 28:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

Analysis

Saul's request to 'bring up Samuel' reveals his continued attachment to the prophet who had anointed and later rejected him. The Hebrew 'ha'ali' (bring up) assumes Samuel is in Sheol, the realm of the dead. Saul seeks from death what he could not obtain in life: prophetic guidance. This desperate attempt to reconnect with Samuel represents Saul's acknowledgment that he has lost his only reliable divine connection. The tragedy deepens as we witness a king seeking the dead prophet he once frustrated.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern concepts of the afterlife generally placed the dead in a shadowy underworld from which they could sometimes be summoned. Israel shared this general cosmology while prohibiting necromantic practices. Samuel's appearance represents a unique divine intervention rather than normal spiritist activity.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What relationships or connections do we desperately seek to restore when facing crisis?
2. How does loss reveal what we truly valued or depended upon?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה	וַיֹּאמֶר	בַּאֲשֶׁר	הַ	מִ	אַתָּה	בַּעַלְיִ	לְ	נִ	וַיֹּאמֶר	לְ	נִ	אַתָּה
Then said	the woman	H853	H4310		Bring me up	H5927	H0		Then said	H853		
H559	H802								H559			
לְ	שְׁמֹוֹאֵל	בַּעַלְיִ	לִ									
Samuel	Bring me up	H0										
H8050	H5927											

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org