

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

אָת	וַיֹּאמֶר	לְךָ	הַעֲלֵי	מִי	אֶת	הָאִשָּׁה	וַיֹּאמֶר
	Then said		Bring me up			the woman	
	H559		H5927		H853	H802	
		H0		H4310			
לִי:	הַעֲלֵי	שְׁמוּאֵל	לְ				
	Bring me up	Samuel					
	H5927	H8050					
			H0				

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org