

1 Samuel 28:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

Analysis

Samuel's question 'Why hast thou disquieted me?' (Hebrew: 'lamah hirgaztani') uses a verb suggesting disturbance and agitation. The dead prophet is not pleased to be summoned. Saul's response catalogues his desperate situation: 'The Philistines make war... God is departed from me... answereth me no more.' The Hebrew 'sar me'alay' (departed from me) echoes the narrative's theological assessment. Saul accurately diagnoses his condition but comes to the wrong source for remedy, seeking forbidden consultation rather than repentance.

Historical Context

Saul's summary of his situation is theologically accurate: God has indeed departed from him (16:14), and prophetic silence confirms divine rejection. His recognition of the problem without pursuing legitimate restoration illustrates how spiritual knowledge without obedient response proves useless.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When do we accurately diagnose our spiritual condition yet pursue wrong remedies?
2. What prevents us from seeking God directly when we recognize His absence?

Interlinear Text

רְקִיעַת	נִי	לְמֹה	שֶׁ אָל	אָל	שְׁמוֹאֵל	וַיֹּאמֶר	אָמָר	שְׁמוֹאֵל	וַיֹּאמֶר	אָל	אָל	שֶׁ אָל	לְמֹה	רְקִיעַת	נִי	
answered	And Samuel	H413	And Saul	H4100	Why hast thou disquieted	H7264										
H559	H8050		H7586													
מְאֹד	לִי	צָר	שֶׁ אָל	וַיֹּאמֶר	אָתָּה	לְבָעֵל	וְתָ	לְבָעֵל	וְתָ	לִי	מְאֹד	לִי	צָר	מְאֹד	לִי	
me to bring me up		H853	answered	And Saul	distressed	H0	I am sore									
H5927			H559	H7586	H6887	H0	H3966									
מְעַלִּי	סַר	רָכִים	בְּיַם	גָּלְפָמִים	וּפְלִשְׁתִּים	לְמִן	יְמִינָה	יְמִינָה	יְמִינָה	סַר	מְעַלִּי	סַר	רָכִים	לְמִינָה	מְעַלִּי	
for the Philistines	make war	H0	against me and God	is departed	H5921											
H6430	H3898	H0	H430	H5493												
וְלֹא	עַתָּה	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	בְּיַד	בְּיַד	בְּיַד	בְּיַד	בְּיַד	בְּיַד	בְּיַד	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	
from me and answereth		H6030		H5750	H1571	me no more neither by	prophets									
H3808																
לְבָנִים	תְּבִידְתָּ	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	
from me and answereth	therefore I have called	H2472	H7121	H0	H3027	thee that thou mayest make known	H5030									
H1571																
אֲשֶׁר	הַשְׁמִיתָ	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	
H4100	H6213	unto me what I shall do														

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 28:6 (Prophecy): And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

1 Samuel 18:12 (Parallel theme): And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

Proverbs 14:14 (Parallel theme): The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

Hosea 9:12 (Parallel theme): Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, that there shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!

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