

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 hircgztani') 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

הֲרִגְזָתָּ נִי	לָמָּה	שָׁאוּל	אֶל	שְׁמוּאֵל	וַיֹּאמֶר
Why hast thou disquieted		And Saul		And Samuel	answered
H7264		H4100		H8050	H559
מָאֵד לִי	צָר	שָׁאוּל	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵתִי	לְהַעֲלֵי אוֹת
I am sore	distressed	And Saul	answered		me to bring me up
H3966	H6887	H7586	H559	H853	H5927
מַעֲלִי	סָר	וְאֵלֵהֶיּוֹם	בִּי	נִלְחַמְּנוּ	וּפְלִשְׁתֵּי יָם
H5921	is departed	against me and God		make war	for the Philistines
	H5493	H430	H0	H3898	H6430
הַנְּבִיאִים	בִּידִי	גַּם	עוֹד	עַכְשָׁנִי	וְלֹא
prophets	me no more neither by			from me and answereth	
H5030	H3027	H1571	H5750	H6030	H3808
לְהוֹדִיעַ נִי	לְךָ	וְאֶקְרָא	בְּחֵלֶם אוֹת	גַּם	
thee that thou mayest make known		therefore I have called	nor by dreams		
H3045	H0	H7121	H2472		H1571
אֶעֱשֶׂה:	מָה				
	unto me what I shall do				
	H6213				H4100

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!

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org