

1 Samuel 28:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?

Analysis

Samuel's rhetorical question exposes the futility of Saul's consultation: 'Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee?' The Hebrew 'sar... le'oyev' (departed... become enemy) identifies God not merely as absent but as actively opposed. This devastating declaration removes any hope that Samuel might intercede or reverse divine judgment. The prophet who anointed Saul now confirms that God Himself has become Saul's adversary. No prophetic intervention can help when God opposes.

Historical Context

The language of God becoming an enemy appears rarely in Scripture and represents the most severe form of divine judgment. This declaration confirmed that Saul's rejection was complete and irreversible, not a temporary discipline but permanent abandonment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean for God to become someone's enemy rather than merely withdrawn?
2. How does this passage shape your understanding of persistent disobedience's consequences?

Interlinear Text

תְּשִׁאֵל נִי	וְלֹא	מָה	שָׁמֹא לְ	וְאָמַר
Then said	Samuel	H4100	Wherefore then dost thou ask	

יְהִי רָצֶן מֵעֶלְיוֹן יְהִי רָצֶן
of me seeing the LORD is departed H5921 H1961
H3068 H5493

עָרָבָה
from thee and is become thine enemy
H6145

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