

1 Samuel 28:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

Analysis

The narrative shifts to Saul, establishing the desperate context for his forbidden consultation. The note that 'Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him' removes any legitimate prophetic voice from Saul's life. The ironic detail that 'Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land' establishes that Saul himself had enforced the prohibition he is about to violate. His earlier obedience to this command makes his coming transgression more deliberate and condemning.

Historical Context

Samuel's death (1 Samuel 25:1) left Saul without his primary prophetic advisor, despite their estranged relationship. The purge of mediums and spiritists implemented Deuteronomy 18:10-11's prohibition, making Saul's coming action a direct violation of both divine and royal law.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What protections or convictions have you violated in moments of desperation?
2. How does previous obedience make later disobedience more serious?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמוּאֵל לַיָּמִת וְסָפְדוּ לוֹ כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקָבְרוּ הוּא
Now Samuel was dead had lamented H0 H3605 and all Israel him and buried
H8050 H4191 H5594 H3478 H6912

בְּרָמָה וּבְעִירוֹ וְשָׂא וְהָסִיר
him in Ramah even in his own city And Saul had put away
H7414 H5892 H7586 H5493

הָאֵלֹהִים וְהַמְּאֹרָצִים וְהַדְּעִנִּים וְהַמְּאֹרָצִים
those that had familiar spirits H853 and the wizards out of the land
H178 H3049 H776

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 19:31 (Spirit): Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:27 (Spirit): A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

1 Samuel 25:1 (References Israel): And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

Exodus 22:18 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

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