

1 Samuel 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

Analysis

Recognition spreads throughout Israel: 'from Dan even to Beer-sheba' - the traditional boundaries indicating all Israel. Samuel is 'established' (ne'eman, proven trustworthy) as a prophet. The phrase 'prophet of the LORD' becomes his official designation. This national recognition ends the prophetic drought noted in verse 1. Israel again has a reliable prophetic voice. The progression from sanctuary servant to recognized prophet is complete. Hannah's song of the LORD raising the humble finds fulfillment in her son's elevation.

Historical Context

The phrase 'from Dan to Beer-sheba' represents the full extent of Israelite territory, from northernmost to southernmost points. Its use here indicates comprehensive recognition - every region of Israel acknowledged Samuel's prophetic authority.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God authenticate His servants before those they are called to lead?
2. What role does consistent faithfulness play in establishing trustworthy leadership?

Interlinear Text

כִּי שָׁבָע כָּל יְהוָה
knew H3605 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba H3588
H3045 H3478 H1835 H0 H884

לִיהְיוֹה: שָׁמֹא לַנְבֵּךְ יְהוָה
was established that Samuel to be a prophet of the LORD H3068
H539 H8050 H5030

Additional Cross-References

Judges 20:1 (References Lord): Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpeh.

2 Samuel 3:10 (References Israel): To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beer-sheba.