

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

וַיָּדַע	כָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִדָּן	וְעַד	בְּיָר	שֶׁבַע	כִּי
knew	H3605	And all Israel	from Dan	H5704	H0	even to Beersheba	H3588
H3045		H3478	H1835			H884	
נִצָּחַ	שְׁמוּאֵל	לְנָבִיא	לַיהוָה:				
was established	that Samuel	to be a prophet	of the LORD				
H539	H8050	H5030	H3068				

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.