

# 1 Samuel 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.

## Analysis

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**And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.**

This narrative marks the transition from priestly to prophetic leadership in Israel. Samuel's calling demonstrates that God raises up servants according to His sovereign purposes, often choosing unexpected persons during dark spiritual times. The rarity of prophetic revelation ('the word of the LORD was precious in those days') underscores the spiritual bankruptcy of the era. God's threefold call emphasizes both divine initiative and human response—Samuel must learn to recognize God's voice and respond in faithful obedience.

## Historical Context

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The Philistines, part of the 'Sea Peoples' who settled the coastal plain around 1200 BCE, possessed superior iron technology and organized military forces. Their pentapolis (five major cities: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath) controlled coastal trade routes and threatened Israelite settlements in the hill country. The Philistine threat created the political pressure that would eventually lead to Israel's demand for centralized monarchy.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

### Study Questions

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1. What does divine judgment in this passage reveal about God's holiness, justice, and intolerance of persistent rebellion?
2. What specific heart attitudes, thought patterns, or life practices does this passage call you to examine or change?
3. How does divine judgment in this passage drive us to appreciate Christ's substitutionary atonement on our behalf?

### Interlinear Text

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וְהִגֵּלָה לְ אֵל בֵּית וְסֹבֵב בְּשָׁנָה הַ בְּשָׁנָה מִיָּד י וְהָלַךְ  
**And he went** **from** **to year** **to year** **in circuit** <sup>H0</sup> **to Bethel** **and Gilgal**  
H1980 H1767 H8141 H8141 H5437 H1008 H1537

הַמְּקוֹמֹת וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת וְשִׁפֹּט וְהִמָּצֵפָה הַ  
**and Mizpeh** **and judged** <sup>H853</sup> **Israel** <sup>H853</sup> <sup>H3605</sup> **in all those places**  
H4709 H8199 H3478 H4725

הָאֵלֶּה:  
H428