

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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

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

וַיֵּלֶךְ	לְ	אֶל	בֵּית	יִסְבֶּב	בְּשַׁנְּהָה	מִדֵּי	וּבְלַגְּ
And he went	from	to year	to year	in circuit	^{וְ}	to Bethel	and Gilgal
H1980	H1767	H8141	H8141	H5437		H1008	H1537
וְמִצְפֵּה	וְמִצְפֵּה	וְמִצְפֵּה	וְמִצְפֵּה	וְמִצְפֵּה	וְמִצְפֵּה	וְמִצְפֵּה	וְמִצְפֵּה
and Mizpeh	and judged	H853	Israel	H853	H3605	in all those places	
H4709	H8199		H3478			H4725	
בְּאֶלְהָהָן							

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