

1 Samuel 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

Analysis

And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

Samuel calls a national assembly at Mizpeh ('watchtower'), a significant gathering point in Benjamin's territory. His promise 'I will pray for you' establishes his intercessory role - standing between God and people as Moses had done. The Hebrew 'palal' (pray, intercede) carries the sense of judging or intervening on behalf of another. Samuel does not merely teach about prayer; he commits to pray. This prophetic intercession would prove decisive in the coming confrontation. Mizpeh's elevation made it visible from surrounding territory, explaining both its name and its suitability for national gatherings. The call to 'all Israel' emphasized unity - the scattered tribes would assemble as one people before their God. Corporate gathering for repentance and intercession precedes national deliverance.

Historical Context

Mizpeh (Tell en-Nasbeh, about eight miles north of Jerusalem) served as an assembly point during the judges period (Judges 20:1, 3; 21:1, 5, 8). Its central location in Benjamin's territory made it accessible to northern and southern tribes alike. Samuel's leadership at Mizpeh establishes a pattern continued throughout his ministry.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between corporate gathering and spiritual renewal?
2. How does intercessory prayer function in preparing God's people for deliverance?

Interlinear Text

הַמִּצֵּפְ תָּהּ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְכָל אֶת קִבְּצוֹ וְשָׁמוּאֵל לֵאמֹר
said And Samuel Gather H853 H3605 all Israel H4709
H559 H8050 H6908 H3478

אֶל בְּעֵדְכֶם וְאֶתְפַּלֵּל לַיהוָה:
and I will pray H1157 H413 for you unto the LORD
H6419 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.