

1 Samuel 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him.

Analysis

And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him.

Samuel's actions combine sacrifice and intercession. The 'sucking lamb' ('teleh chalab') - a nursing lamb, young and innocent - provided the sacrifice. As burnt offering ('olah'), it was consumed entirely ('kalil', wholly), representing complete consecration. Samuel functioned here as priest though not of Aaronic lineage - his prophetic calling authorized exceptional priestly action, as with Elijah later (1 Kings 18). His 'crying' ('za'aq') to the LORD indicates fervent, urgent petition, the same term used for Israel's distress cries throughout Judges. The climactic statement 'the LORD heard him' confirms answered prayer. God's hearing implies not mere auditory reception but responsive action. The lamb offered while enemies approached points forward to Christ - the Lamb whose sacrifice secures deliverance for God's people even as spiritual enemies advance.

Historical Context

Prophets occasionally offered sacrifice (1 Samuel 9:12-13; 1 Kings 18:30-38), though this was normally priestly prerogative. Samuel's unique position as prophet-judge gave him authority in both spheres. The burnt offering's complete consumption symbolized total dedication and atonement.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the image of a lamb offered while enemies approach connect to Christ's sacrifice?
2. What does 'the LORD heard him' teach about the effectiveness of righteous intercession?

Interlinear Text

עָזַל הָ	תִּעַל הָ	שְׁמֹ�א לְ	לְקָרְבָּן	בָּל הָ	סְלָבָן	אַפְּנָנָה	וְעַד	שְׁמֹ�א לְ	לְקָרְבָּן	וְעַל הָ	תִּעַל הָ	שְׁמֹ�א לְ	לְקָרְבָּן	
took	And Samuel	lamb	sucking	a	and offered	it for a burnt offering								
H3947	H8050	H2924	H2461	H259	H5927	H5930								
כָּל יְלִיל	וְיְהִי:	כָּל יְלִיל	וְיְהִי:	כָּל יְלִיל	וְיְהִי:	כָּל יְלִיל	וְיְהִי:	כָּל יְלִיל	וְיְהִי:	כָּל יְלִיל	וְיְהִי:	כָּל יְלִיל	וְיְהִי:	
wholly	and the LORD	cried	And Samuel	a	and the LORD	a								
H3632	H3068	H2199	H8050	H413	H3068	H1157								
וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	וְיְהִי:	
for Israel	heard	and the LORD												
H3478	H6030	H3068												

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 15:1 (References Lord): Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Psalms 99:6 (References Lord): Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

1 Samuel 7:17 (Sacrifice): And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

James 5:16 (Parallel theme): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1 Samuel 16:2 (Sacrifice): And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

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