

1 Samuel 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.

Analysis

As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.

The maidens provide remarkably precise instructions, revealing both Samuel's central role in community worship and the specific window of opportunity available to Saul. The phrase 'the people will not eat until he come' establishes Samuel's priestly function: he blessed (barak) the sacrifice, consecrating the meal for sacred consumption. This detail shows Samuel functioning in a quasi-priestly capacity despite being an Ephraimite, authorized by his prophetic office and the disrupted state of the Levitical priesthood. The expression 'they that be bidden' (qeru'im, 'the called ones' or 'invited guests') introduces the concept of divine invitation that becomes significant when Samuel seats Saul in the place of honor. The repeated urgency, 'get you up,' propels the narrative forward toward its climax while reminding readers that divine appointments operate within human time constraints.

Historical Context

Blessing food before eating was standard Israelite practice, with the blessing acknowledging God as provider and consecrating the meal. Samuel's priestly functions reflect the transitional period when normal Levitical structures were disrupted. The invited guests likely included civic and religious leaders of the community, making Saul's later prominence at the feast even more remarkable.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Samuel's role in blessing the sacrifice reflect the integration of prophetic and priestly functions?
2. What does being among 'those who are invited' to God's table mean in your spiritual life?

Interlinear Text

אֶת וְ תִמְצָא וְ | כִּי הָעִיר בָּא וְ
As soon as ye be come into the city ye shall straightway find H853
H935 H5892 H3651 H4672

לֹא כִּי יֹאכְלוּ וְ הַבֶּמֶתָה עַל וְ בְּטָרֵם
Now therefore get you up to the high place they eat H3588 H3808
H2962 H5927 H1116 H398

הוא כִּי בָא וְ עַד הָעָם יֹאכְלוּ וְ
they eat for the people H5704 As soon as ye be come H3588 H1931
H398 H5971 H935

יֹאכְלוּ וְ כִּי אַחֲרָיָהוּ בָח יְבָרֵךְ הוּא
because he doth bless the sacrifice and afterwards ye shall straightway they eat
H1288 H2077 H310 H3651 H398

כְּהִי וָזֶמֶן אֶת וְ כִּי עַל וְ יַעֲתֶה הַקֶּרֶב יָם
that be bidden H6258 Now therefore get you up H3588 H853 for about this time
H7121 H5927 H3117

אֶתְּוֹ: תִּמְצָא וְ
find H853
H4672

Additional Cross-References

John 6:11 (Parallel theme): And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.