

1 Samuel 9:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.

Analysis

And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.

Samuel's self-identification, 'I am the seer' (anoki haro'eh), initiates the revelation that will transform Saul's life. The command to 'go up before me' inverts normal social order: typically a lesser person would follow, not precede, a dignitary. This inversion signals Saul's impending elevation while testing his response to unexpected honor. Samuel's promise to reveal 'all that is in thine heart' (kol asher bilvaveka) demonstrates prophetic insight that transcends natural knowledge. Saul came with questions about donkeys; Samuel promises answers about his deepest concerns and hidden thoughts. The invitation to eat together carries covenant significance in ancient Near Eastern culture: sharing a meal established or confirmed relationship. Samuel thus initiates Saul into a new relationship that would soon be formalized through anointing.

Historical Context

Prophetic knowledge of hidden thoughts demonstrated authentic divine communication, distinguishing true prophets from false ones who relied on

manipulation or guesswork. The invitation to share a meal was a significant honor and social commitment in ancient culture, often sealing agreements or marking the beginning of important relationships.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's knowledge of 'all that is in your heart' comfort or challenge you?
2. What does it mean to be invited to 'go before' God into His presence?

Interlinear Text

בָּרָא הָ	אָנֹכִ יְ	וַיֹּאמֶר	שָׁא וְלַ	שָׁמְוֹא לְ	וְיִעַ	answered	And Samuel	H853	Saul	and said	H595	I am the seer
H6030	H8050		H7586		H559							H7200
גֵּי יְמִ	עַתִּ	תִּאכְלַת מְ	לִפְנֵי	בְּבִטְמֵה	עַל הַ	go up	before	me unto the high place	for ye shall eat	H5973	with me to day	
H5927	H6440	H1116				H398						H3117
בְּלֹבְבָּת	בְּלֹבְבָּת	בְּלֹבְבָּת	וְשַׁלְּחָת יְ	אָשָׁר יְ	וְכָל לְ	I will let thee go	and to morrow	H3605	H834	thee all that is in thine heart		
			H3824			H7971	H1242					
תְּ	אֶ	תְּ	לְ	אָשָׁר	וְכָל	and will tell	H5046	H0				

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 14:25 (Parallel theme): And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

John 4:29 (Parallel theme): Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

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