

1 Samuel 9:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons.

Analysis

And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons.

Samuel's actions speak louder than words as he physically elevates Saul and even his servant to the 'chiefest place' (rosh, literally 'head') among the thirty invited guests. This public honor before the assembled community signals Saul's new status without explicit announcement. The 'parlour' (lishkah) was a hall or chamber associated with the sanctuary, used for sacrificial meals and sacred gatherings. The inclusion of Saul's servant in this honor demonstrates grace extending beyond the chosen individual to his household, foreshadowing how the king's blessing would affect his entire family and nation. The number thirty suggests a significant gathering of community leaders, making Saul's sudden prominence all the more remarkable. This public seating arrangement prepared the community to accept Saul's coming revelation as king.

Historical Context

The lishkah was a chamber attached to sacred sites, used for storing offerings and hosting sacred meals. Similar structures have been identified archaeologically at various Israelite sites. The number thirty was often associated with official delegations or representative groups in ancient Israel (cf. Judges 14:11). Seating

position indicated social rank, with the 'head' position reserved for the most honored guest.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes publicly honor those He has privately chosen?
2. What does the inclusion of Saul's servant in this honor teach about the scope of God's blessing?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּבְיאֵ אֶת־שְׁמוֹאֵל וְאֶת־
took And Samuel H853 Saul H853 and his servant and brought H935
H3947 H8050 H7586 H5288 H935

לְשֹׁכֶן תָּהַר | לְהַמִּלְכָה מִקְרָם בָּרָאשׁ
them into the parlour and made them sit H0 place in the chiefest H7218
H3957 H5414 H4725 H7218

בְּקָרְבָּן יְמִין | כְּשִׁלְשָׁם אִישׁ
among them that were bidden H1992 which were about thirty persons H376
H7121 H7970 H376

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