

1 Samuel 9:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

Analysis

And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

Samuel's prior instruction to the cook reveals the depth of his prophetic preparation. Before Saul arrived, before Samuel even knew specifically who would come, he had reserved a special portion (manah). This detail emphasizes that nothing in this encounter is improvised: God had revealed enough for Samuel to make specific preparations. The cook's role as keeper of the reserved portion makes him an unwitting participant in Israel's political transition. Samuel's command 'Bring the portion' uses the definite article, indicating a specific, previously identified piece of meat set apart for this moment. The Hebrew construction emphasizes deliberate, advance planning: 'which I gave thee... which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.' Every element of this meal had been prophetically arranged, demonstrating how divine foreknowledge works through human preparation.

Historical Context

Sacrificial meals involved specific portions designated for various purposes: parts for God (burned), parts for priests, parts for the one offering the sacrifice, and parts for guests. The cook's role in managing these portions was important for maintaining proper ritual procedure. Samuel's advance arrangement demonstrates prophetic authority over the entire sacrificial process.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Samuel's advance preparation challenge us to be ready for what God has revealed?
2. What does the reserved portion symbolize about God's sovereign provision for those He calls?

Interlinear Text

אָפּ ר	הַמָּנֶה	אֶת	בָּרֵךְ הַ	לְטַבֵּחַ	שְׁמוּאֵל	אָמַר רְתִי
H834	H4490	H853	Bring	H5414	And Samuel	said
					H8050	H559
עַמְּךָ:	אֵת הַ	שֵׁם	אֶל יְיָ	אָמַר רְתִי	אֲשֶׁר	לָרֶ
H5973	H853	unto thee Set	H413	said	H834	H0
		H7760		H559		H5414