

1 Samuel 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house.

Analysis

And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house.

After the public feast, Samuel seeks private conversation with Saul on the rooftop, a typical setting for confidential discourse in ancient Israel. The Hebrew *vayedabber* ('communed' or 'spoke') suggests extended, meaningful conversation rather than brief exchange. The move from 'high place' to 'top of the house' maintains elevation imagery while shifting from public sacred space to private domestic space. This rooftop conversation likely included instruction about kingship, warning about its responsibilities, and preparation for the morning's anointing. Samuel, who had himself been reluctant about the monarchy, now faithfully prepares God's chosen king. The intimacy of this setting, under the stars of a Judean night, creates a sacred moment of mentorship as the aging prophet shares divine wisdom with the young man about to assume unprecedented responsibility.

Historical Context

Flat rooftops in ancient Israelite homes served multiple purposes: drying goods, sleeping in summer heat, and private conversation away from household activity. Important conversations often occurred on rooftops (cf. Joshua 2:6; Acts 10:9). The 'coming down' from the high place reflects the typical geography of sanctuary sites on elevated ground with towns below.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What role does private instruction and mentorship play in preparing for public leadership?
2. How might Samuel's personal struggles with Israel's request for a king have informed his counsel to Saul?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּרֶד וּ	מִהַרְבֵּם הַ	הָעִיר יר	וַיִּדְבֹּר ר
And when they were come down	from the high place	into the city	Samuel communed
H3381	H1116	H5892	H1696
עִם שָׂאֵל וְעַל	הַגָּג:		
H5973	H7586	H5921	H1406
with Saul	upon the top of the house		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:9 (Parallel theme): On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

Deuteronomy 22:8 (Parallel theme): When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence.

Nehemiah 8:16 (Parallel theme): So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their

courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

2 Samuel 11:2 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

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