

1 Samuel 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.

Analysis

And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.

The servant's initiative in providing the quarter-shekel demonstrates both resourcefulness and providential supply. This small amount, roughly 2.8 grams of silver, was modest yet sufficient for their purpose. The Hebrew phrase *matsa yadi* ('I have at hand,' literally 'my hand has found') suggests unexpected discovery or hidden reserve. Throughout this narrative, the servant consistently moves events forward while Saul hesitates, a dynamic that raises questions about leadership qualities. The servant's willingness to give his own money for their mutual benefit contrasts with Saul's passive uncertainty. This small detail prefigures the coming narrative where God provides what is needed precisely when needed. The verse also establishes that prophetic consultation was accessible even to common people with modest means, reflecting the democratic accessibility of God's guidance through His servants.

Historical Context

A quarter-shekel was a small but not insignificant sum, perhaps equivalent to a day or two's wages for common labor. Silver was weighed rather than coined in this period, with pieces often cut from larger bars. The transaction illustrates that

prophetic guidance was available across economic classes, not reserved for wealthy patrons.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God often provide unexpected resources at crucial moments in your spiritual journey?
2. What does the servant's greater initiative compared to Saul suggest about true leadership qualities?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה	וַיֹּאמֶר	שָׂא וּל	אֶת	לָעֹנֹת	הַנֶּעַר	וַיֹּסֶף
H2009	and said	Saul	H853	answered	And the servant	again
	H559	H7586		H6030	H5288	H3254
וְנָתַתִּי	כֶּסֶף	שֵׁשׁ קֶלַח	רֶבַע	בִּידִי	נִמְצָא	
that will I give	of silver	of a shekel	the fourth part	here at hand	Behold I have	
H5414	H3701	H8255	H7253	H3027	H4672	
דִּרְכָּנוּ:	אֶת	לְנוֹ	וְהִגֵּד יָד	הָאֱלֹהִים	לְאִישׁ	
us our way	H853	H0	to tell	of God	to the man	
H1870			H5046	H430	H376	