

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

הנה לֵאמֹר שֶׁאָל אַת לְעֹנֹת בְּנֵי עָרָי וְאַת
again And the servant answered Saul and said H2009
H3254 H5288 H6030 H853 H7586 H559

וְנִתְתַּתִּי שֶׁ קָל שֶׁ סָף בְּנֵי בַּיִד יְהוָה
Behold I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver that will I give
H4672 H3027 H7253 H8255 H3701 H5414

עֲרָכָנוּ אַת לְנֹהֵג יְד קָאֵלה יִם לֹא יִש
to the man of God to tell H0 H853 H1870
H376 H430 H5046

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