

Judges 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.

Analysis

And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go. The priest's response—"Go in peace" (lekhu leshalom, לֵכוּ לְשָׁלוֹם)—was standard priestly blessing language (1 Samuel 1:17), but the assurance "before the LORD is your way" (nochach Yahweh darkekhem, נֹכַח יְהוָה דַּרְכֵיכֶם) was presumptuous prophecy without divine authorization. He used the covenant name Yahweh (יְהוָה) but spoke from a position of disobedience, serving an idolatrous shrine rather than the authorized tabernacle at Shiloh.

The phrase "before the LORD" (nochach Yahweh, נֹכַח יְהוָה) literally means "straight before" or "in the presence of," suggesting God approved their mission. Yet God had already assigned Dan specific territory; seeking elsewhere contradicted His revealed will. This false prophecy illustrates the danger of religious leaders who speak what people want to hear rather than what God has actually said (Jeremiah 14:13-15, 23:16-17, Ezekiel 13:1-7). From a Reformed perspective, this warns that not everyone claiming to speak for God truly does—testing teaching against Scripture is essential (1 John 4:1, Acts 17:11).

Historical Context

True prophetic guidance came through authorized channels—the high priest with Urim and Thummim at the tabernacle, or prophets whom God had genuinely called and whose words proved true (Deuteronomy 18:21-22). This Levite possessed no such authorization. His blessing reflected professional courtesy to clients, not

genuine prophetic insight. Ironically, the Danites' mission did 'succeed' in worldly terms—they conquered Laish. But this 'success' led to generations of idolatry and eventual exile. God sometimes permits us to achieve goals pursued in disobedience, but such success brings spiritual disaster rather than blessing.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can we discern between genuine prophetic guidance and religious professionals telling us what we want to hear?
2. What role does Scripture play in testing whether claimed divine guidance truly comes from God?
3. In what ways might worldly 'success' actually indicate we're outside God's will, while apparent obstacles indicate we're exactly where He wants us?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	נֶכַח	לְשַׁלְּוֹם	לְךָ	וְהַכֹּהֵן	לֵאמֹר	וַיֹּאמֶר
the LORD	before	in peace	H1980	And the priest	H559	said
H3068	H5227	H7965		H3548		H0

וַיֹּאמֶר	וְהַכֹּהֵן	לְשַׁלְּוֹם	לְךָ	וְהַכֹּהֵן	לֵאמֹר	וַיֹּאמֶר
is your way	H834	H1980	H0			
H1870						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:6 (References Lord): Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramoth-

gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org