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fearing for his own safety. I think, from what we read elsewhere of the character of Samuel, that he would have been very ready to be a martyr to the cause of God, if that should be God's Will. I think his fear was for the fulfillment of the task. He thought that if it should be known that he was starting for Bethlehem to crown a new king, Saul would immediately seize him for treason and make it impossible to carry out the work. I do not think he is here expressing fear but asking rather for direction as to how God wishes His Will to be performed.

The next verse is a stumbling block to some. People err on two sides as a result of it. There are those that think it gives a warrant for telling lies. Such an attitude can, of course, not be a true interpretation for the book of Revelation tells us that all liars have their place in the Lake of Fire. On the other hand, there are those who say it proves that the Old Testament is not a book of God since it commends lying and shows a primitive and low idea of morality. This also cannot be true since the New Testament teaches us so clearly that the whole scripture is inspired of God and kept by Him from error. The Scripture, of course, contains error but they are quoted as the words of wicked men. When it gives us something as the statement of God, we can be sure that it expresses God's Will. Whatever this verse teaches, it is not contrary to the Will of God but in accordance with it.

We must then avoid extremes in the interpretation of this verse, and endeavor to interpret it in accordance with true and right principles.

The first principle to bear in mind is that whatever God's Word teaches must be right. It is wrong for us to endeavor to ascertain on purely reasonable lines what are the correct attitudes and ways of conduct to continue. We must not judge the Bible but rather take the Bible as our judge. God's Word, when its correct text has been ascertained, and when its correct interpretation has been decided upon, is the final judge on all our actions. If we determine, with certainty, what is the teaching of this passage <sup>and</sup> to what God told Samuel to do, we can find in it a principle which will be normative for us also.