

1 Samuel 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

Analysis

When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

Samuel provides the first of three confirming signs to validate Saul's divine appointment. The location at Rachel's tomb is deeply symbolic: Rachel was the mother of Benjamin, Saul's tribe, and her death while giving birth to Benjamin (Genesis 35:16-20) connects to themes of tribal identity and destiny. The Hebrew 'sorroweth' (da'ag) indicates anxious care, showing Kish's fatherly concern had shifted from property to person. God's providence orchestrated mundane circumstances (lost donkeys) for monumental purposes (establishing kingship). This sign would build Saul's confidence that Samuel's words were genuinely from God. The specificity of the prophecy - two men, precise location, exact words - demonstrates God's exhaustive knowledge of future events, a hallmark of true prophecy distinguishing Israel's God from pagan deities.

Historical Context

Rachel's tomb near Bethlehem was a significant landmark in Benjamin's territory. The mention of Zelzah, whose exact location is now uncertain, demonstrates the text's authentic preservation of geographic details from Saul's era. Such precision would have been verifiable to the original audience.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How has God used ordinary circumstances in your life to accomplish His greater purposes?
2. What does the specificity of biblical prophecy teach us about God's sovereignty over history?

Interlinear Text

עם אָנשׁ ים שְׁנֵי י נִמְצָא ו מֵעַמֶּד י הַיּוֹם הֵל כָּת
which thou wentest **to day** **from me** **are found** **two** H376 H5973
H1980 H3117 H5978 H4672 H8147

לֹאמֹר בְּצִלָּה בְּנֵימָן בְּגִבּוֹל כָּח ל קִבְּרוֹת
sepulchre **by Rachel's** **in the border** **of Benjamin** **at Zelzah** **and they will say**
H6900 H7354 H1366 H1144 H6766 H559

וְהֵן ה לְבַקֵּשׁ הֵל כָּת אֲשֶׁר הָאֲתָנֹת ו נִמְצָא ו אֶל יֶרֶךְ
are found **of the asses** H834 **which thou wentest** **to seek** H2009
H413 H4672 H860 H1980 H1245

לָכֶם וְדָא ג הָאֲתָנֹת וְדָבָר י אֶת אָב יֶרֶךְ נָטַשׁ
hath left **and lo thy father** H853 **the care** **of the asses** **and sorroweth** H0
H5203 H1 H1697 H860 H1672

לֹאמֹר הָאֲעֹשֶׂה הָמָּה לִבְנִי:
and they will say H4100 **What shall I do** **for my son**
H559 H6213 H1121