

# 1 Samuel 10:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

## Analysis

**Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.**

The assembly's response to Saul's absence was to seek the LORD further (sha'al od ba-YHWH), demonstrating proper dependence on divine guidance. The verb 'sha'al' (inquired) puns on Saul's name (Sha'ul, 'asked for'), creating wordplay throughout his narrative. God's answer is startlingly specific: 'Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff' (kelim, baggage or equipment). This divine omniscience - knowing precisely where a hiding man conceals himself - displays God's exhaustive knowledge. Whether Saul's hiding reflected genuine humility (a farmer overwhelmed by kingship), fear of responsibility, or early signs of emotional instability remains debated. The contrast with later Saul is sharp: here he hides from honor; later he relentlessly pursues David to protect his honor. God's answer is neither condemnatory nor commendatory; it simply locates His chosen servant.

## Historical Context

Large assemblies required substantial equipment and supplies. The 'stuff' or 'baggage' (kelim) would have formed a considerable collection at Mizpah. Saul's hiding among these items showed intimate knowledge of the assembly grounds, perhaps from helping arrange the gathering.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's precise knowledge of Saul's hiding place teach about divine omniscience?
2. When have you hidden from responsibilities God was calling you to embrace?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׁאַלְוּ	וְיֻתָּר	וְיֹהִי הָ	וְבָא	וְלָמָעַת
<b>Therefore they enquired</b> H7592	H5750	<b>And the LORD</b> H3068	<b>should yet come</b> H935	H5750 <b>thither</b> H1988
אֲשֶׁר	וְיֹאמֶר	וְיֹהִי הָ	וְנִחְתַּבְנָה	וְנִחְתַּבְנָה
<b>further if the man</b> H376	<b>answered</b> H559	<b>And the LORD</b> H3068	H2009 <b>Behold he hath hid</b> H1931	H2244
אֵל	בְּפֶלִימָן			
H413	<b>himself among the stuff</b> H3627			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 27:21** (References Lord): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

**Judges 20:18** (References Lord): And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first

to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the LORD said, Judah shall go up first.

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