

# 1 Samuel 19:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

## Analysis

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**And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.**

The Spirit's power upon Saul's messengers, causing them to prophesy instead of arrest, demonstrates divine sovereignty over human intentions. Three times Saul sent messengers (vv.20-21); three times God intervened. The phrase 'the Spirit of God was upon the messengers' shows God appropriating even enemies for His purposes. Human plans dissolve before divine power.

## Historical Context

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Prophetic communities in Israel often experienced ecstatic worship. The Spirit's overpowering of Saul's messengers resembled but surpassed normal prophetic activity. Samuel standing 'as appointed over them' indicates his leadership of the prophetic guild.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. When have you witnessed God turning hostile intentions into occasions for spiritual encounter?
2. What does the messengers' prophesying teach about God's power over those sent against His servants?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֵּרָא	אֶת	לֶקַח חַת	מְלָאכֵי י	שָׁאוּל	וַיִּשְׁלַח	ח
and when they saw	H853	to take	messengers	And Saul	sent	
H7200	H1732	H3947	H4397	H7586	H7971	
עָמָד	וְשָׁמוּאֵל	וַתִּנָּבֵא וְ	הַנְּבִיאִים	לְהִקָּדֵם	אֶת	
standing	and Samuel	and they also prophesied	of the prophets	the company		
H5975	H8050	H5012	H5030	H3862	H853	
ר וְ	שָׁאוּל	מְלָאכֵי י	עַל	וַתֵּהָיֶה י	עָלֶיהָ	נָצַב
over them the Spirit	And Saul	messengers				as appointed
H7307	H7586	H4397	H5921	H1961	H5921	H5324
הִמָּה:	גַּם	וַתִּנָּבֵא וְ	אֱלֹהֵי יִם			
H1992	H1571	and they also prophesied	of God			
		H5012	H430			

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 7:32** (Parallel theme): The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.

**Joel 2:28** (Spirit): And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

**1 Samuel 10:10** (Spirit): And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

**1 Samuel 19:14** (References David): And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick.

**1 Samuel 19:11** (References David): Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.