

# 1 Samuel 9:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:

## Analysis

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**And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:**

The maidens' response overflows with urgency and detailed information, far exceeding what Saul's simple question required. Their emphatic 'He is; behold, he is before you' confirms Samuel's presence while their exhortation to 'make haste' (maharu) conveys the time-sensitive nature of the opportunity. The mention of sacrifice at the 'high place' (bamah) introduces an important setting. Before Solomon's temple, high places served as legitimate worship sites, distinct from the later corrupted bamoth associated with syncretistic worship. The communal sacrifice indicates a covenant meal where the community would eat together in God's presence. Samuel's arrival 'today' underscores providential timing: had Saul come a day earlier or later, this encounter would have missed its appointed moment. Every detail aligns with precision that can only be attributed to divine orchestration.

## Historical Context

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High places (bamot) were elevated outdoor worship sites common before the centralization of worship in Jerusalem. While later associated with pagan practices and condemned by prophets, they served legitimate purposes during Samuel's era

when the tabernacle was not functioning as the central sanctuary after Shiloh's destruction. Community sacrifices involved shared meals that strengthened social and religious bonds.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's precise timing in your life demonstrate His sovereign care over circumstances?
2. What opportunities might require urgent response lest we miss God's appointed moment?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתַּעֲנֵן יְהוָה	אֹתָם	וַתֹּאמֶר רָנָה	יְהוָה	לִפְנֵי יְהוָה
And they answered	H853	them and said	He is	behold he is before
H6030		H559	H3426	H6440

מַה רָא	כִּי עָתָה	כִּי הַיּוֹם	בָּא	לְעִיר	כִּי
you make haste	H6258	H3588	to day	now for he came	to the city
H4116		H3117	H935	H5892	H3588

זֶה בָּח	הַיּוֹם	לְעָם	בִּבְמָה:
for there is a sacrifice	to day	of the people	in the high place
H2077	H3117	H5971	H1116

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 31:54** (Sacrifice): Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount.

**1 Samuel 10:5** (Parallel theme): After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:

**1 Samuel 16:2** (Sacrifice): And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

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