

1 Samuel 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.

Analysis

And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.

The moment of encounter arrives with cinematic precision: as Saul enters the city, Samuel exits toward the high place, their paths converging in the gate. The Hebrew hinneh ('behold') signals narrative climax, calling readers to attention at this pivotal intersection. The phrase 'came out against them' (yotse liqratam) uses military language ('to meet' or 'to confront'), subtly suggesting the confrontational nature of prophetic ministry that will characterize Samuel's relationship with both Saul and later David. Neither party had specifically sought this meeting in its true significance: Saul sought lost donkeys, Samuel proceeded to his regular duties. Yet God had arranged every circumstance to bring prophet and future king face to face at precisely this moment. The city gate, traditional site of legal and commercial transactions, becomes the location where Israel's political future is decided.

Historical Context

City gates were multipurpose spaces serving as marketplaces, courts of law, and social gathering points. Important transactions and announcements occurred at gates (Ruth 4:1-11). Samuel's departure through the gate at the precise moment of

Saul's arrival exemplifies what appears coincidental but reflects divine sovereignty orchestrating human affairs.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced 'divine appointments' where circumstances aligned beyond coincidence?
2. What significance do you see in God arranging this encounter at the city gate, the place of public transaction?

Interlinear Text

לְעַל וְתַ	בָּאִים	בַּת וְרַ
And they went up	and when they were come	into
H5927	H935	H8432
into the city	into the city	into
H2009	H1992	H5927
behold Samuel	Shemuel	And they went up
H8050	H3318	H5927
came out	came out	came out
against	against	against
to the high place	to the high place	to the high place
H1116	H1116	H1116

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