

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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לָעַל וְת	הָעִיר	הַמֶּלֶךְ	בָּאִים	בֵּית וְנָ	
And they went up	into the city	H1992	and when they were come	into	
H5927	H5892		H935	H8432	
הָעִיר	וְהִנֵּה	שְׂמוּאֵל	יָצָא	לְקִדְמָתָם	לָעַל וְת
into the city	H2009	behold Samuel	came out	against	And they went up
H5892		H8050	H3318	H7125	H5927
הַבִּמָּה:					
to the high place					
H1116					