

# 1 Samuel 9:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

## Analysis

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**To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.**

God's words to Samuel echo the Exodus pattern, where the LORD 'looked upon' Israel's affliction and heard their cry (Exodus 2:25; 3:7). The title 'captain' (nagid) rather than 'king' (melek) is significant: this term emphasizes military leadership and subordination to the ultimate King, God Himself. The mission is specific: deliverance from Philistine oppression. God acknowledges Israel's suffering while working through their flawed request for a king to accomplish His redemptive purposes. The phrase 'my people' appears three times, emphasizing that despite Israel's rejection of divine kingship, God has not rejected them. The precise timing, 'tomorrow about this time,' underscores prophetic specificity while the verb 'send' (shalach) indicates that even Saul's wandering journey was divinely directed. God condescends to work through imperfect human institutions to accomplish His saving purposes.

## Historical Context

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Philistine domination during this period included military garrisons in Israelite territory (10:5; 13:3) and economic control through iron monopolies (13:19-22). The Philistines, part of the Sea Peoples who settled along Canaan's coast around 1175 BCE, posed the most serious external threat to Israel during Samuel's era. Their superior military technology and organization demanded united Israelite response.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's response to Israel's cry, even while they were seeking a king to replace Him, display His grace?
2. What does the title 'captain' rather than 'king' suggest about proper human leadership under God's authority?

## Interlinear Text

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כְּעַתָּה	מָחָר	אֶשְׁלַח	אֵלַי יְבִי	אִישׁ	מֵאֵת הָאָרֶץ
about this time	To morrow	I will send	H413	thee a man	out of the land
H6256	H4279	H7971		H376	H776
בְּנֵימִן	וּמְשַׁחְתָּהּ	לְנָגִיד	עַל	עַמִּי	יִשְׂרָאֵל
of Benjamin	and thou shalt anoint	him to be captain	H5921	my people	Israel
H1144	H4886	H5057		H5971	H3478
וְהוֹשִׁיעַ	אֶת	עַמִּי	מִיַּד	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	כִּי
that he may save	H853	my people	out of the hand	of the Philistines	H3588
H3467		H5971	H3027	H6430	
כִּי יִתֵּי	אֶת	עַמִּי	כִּי	בָּאָה	צָעֲקָתָם
for I have looked	H853	my people	H3588	is come	because their cry
H7200		H5971	H935	H6818	H413

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 10:1** (Parallel theme): Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

**Psalms 25:18** (Parallel theme): Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

**Psalms 106:44** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:

**1 Samuel 15:1** (References Israel): Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

**1 Samuel 16:3** (Parallel theme): And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

