

# 1 Samuel 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.

## Analysis

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**And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.**

The divine voice interrupts the visual moment, confirming Saul's identity to Samuel with emphatic certainty: 'Behold the man!' (hinneh ha'ish). This direct divine communication while Samuel looked upon Saul demonstrates the prophetic gift in action: seeing with physical eyes while receiving spiritual revelation. The verb 'reign' (atsar) literally means 'to restrain' or 'to rule,' suggesting that the king's function was to bring order and restraint to Israel's chaotic situation. Notably, God still calls Israel 'my people,' refusing to abandon them despite their rejection. The moment is charged with both promise and foreboding: Saul is God's chosen instrument, yet earlier chapters have established the problematic nature of Israel's request. Samuel receives clear divine confirmation, removing any doubt about Saul's identity while leaving future questions of Saul's character to unfold.

## Historical Context

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The divine voice speaking directly to prophets (rather than through dreams or visions alone) characterized Samuel's prophetic ministry. This immediacy of revelation distinguished Israel's prophetic tradition from divination practices in surrounding cultures. The moment parallels other divine identifications of chosen leaders (Moses, Gideon, David).

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do you discern God's confirmation in decisions you face?
2. What does it mean that God continued to call Israel 'my people' even when they were rejecting His direct rule?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׁמוּאֵל ל	רָאָה	אֶת	שָׁאֵל וְל	יְהוָה	עָנָה הוּא	הֵי ה
And when Samuel	saw	H853	Saul	the LORD	said	H2009
H8050	H7200		H7586	H3068	H6030	
הָאִישׁ	אֶשְׂרֵי	אֲמַרְתִּי	אֵלַי יְיָ			
unto him Behold the man	H834	whom I spake	H413	H2088		
H376		H559				
יַעֲצֹר	בְּעַמִּי:					
to thee of! this same shall reign	over my people					
H6113	H5971					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 13:11** (Kingdom): I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.