

# 1 Samuel 9:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.

## Analysis

**And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.**

The shoulder (shoq) was the priestly portion according to Levitical law (Leviticus 7:32-34), making its presentation to Saul highly significant. By giving Saul the portion normally reserved for priests, Samuel symbolically indicates Saul's sacred calling and special relationship to God. The phrase 'that which is left' (hanishar) may indicate the portion remaining after proper priestly portions were taken, or it may emphasize that this specific piece was 'reserved' or 'kept back.' Samuel's declaration that it had been 'kept for thee' (shamur leka) emphasizes divine appointment: from the moment Samuel planned this feast, this portion was designated for an unknown guest whom God would send. Saul's eating with Samuel establishes covenant fellowship between prophet and future king, consecrating their relationship.

## Historical Context

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The shoulder (thigh) was designated for Aaron and his sons in Levitical law as a wave offering. Samuel's giving this portion to Saul either indicates prophetic authority to modify ritual for special purposes or suggests this was a variant practice at high places before temple centralization. The symbolic weight of receiving priestly food would not have been lost on the assembled guests.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does receiving the 'priestly portion' suggest about the sacred nature of leadership in God's people?
2. How does the concept of something 'kept for you' since before you knew about it illustrate divine election?

## Interlinear Text

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שָׁא וְלִפְנֵי יְבָשִׁים וְהַעַל יְבָשָׁה וְשִׁמְמָה רָם  
took up And the cook H853 the shoulder H5921 set it before Saul  
H7311 H2876 H7785 H7760 H6440 H7586

כִּי יְאַמֵּן רְאִמְמָה הַבָּשָׁר הַבָּשָׁר שִׁמְמָה  
And Samuel said H2009 Behold that which is left set it before did eat H3588  
H559 H7604 H7760 H6440 H398

לְמַזְעֵד שְׁמָוֹר לְבָשָׁר כָּלִים  
for unto this time hath it been kept H0 And Samuel said the people H5971  
H4150 H8104 H559 H5971

פְּהִיאָ בְּיַהֲוָה שְׁמָוֹאֵל יְאַמֵּן קָרְבָּנִי  
I have invited did eat Saul with Samuel that day H1931  
H7121 H398 H7586 H8050 H3117

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 24:4** (Parallel theme): Gather the pieces thereof into it, even every good piece, the thigh, and the shoulder; fill it with the choice bones.

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