

# 1 Samuel 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.

## Analysis

**And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.**

Divine providence often works through mundane circumstances, and here lost donkeys become the catalyst for Israel's monarchical transformation. The Hebrew athonoth (female donkeys) were valuable property, used for transport and as a measure of wealth. Kish's command reveals the normal rhythms of agricultural life from which Saul would be called. This literary technique of using ordinary events to advance God's extraordinary purposes appears throughout Scripture, from Joseph's brothers seeking grain to Ruth gleaning in Boaz's field. The instruction to 'arise' (qum) carries subtle royal undertones, as this verb frequently accompanies divine calls to leadership. Saul's obedient response to his father's mundane request unknowingly initiates his journey toward the throne, demonstrating how faithfulness in small duties positions one for greater callings.

## Historical Context

Donkeys were essential to Israelite economy, valued for transport across hilly terrain where horses were impractical. A wealthy household like Kish's would have possessed multiple animals. The search for lost livestock was a common occurrence that could span several days and cover significant distances across tribal territories.

## 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 might God be using ordinary circumstances in your life to direct you toward His greater purposes?
2. What does Saul's obedience in this mundane task reveal about preparation for larger responsibilities?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיֵשׁ אָמֶר שָׁא וְלֵא בְּאָתָנָתָן וְתַאֲבֵ בְּנָה

were lost And the asses And Kish Saul's said And Kish

H6 H860 H7027 H1 H7586 H559 H7027

מִבְנָעָר יְמִינָה אֶת אָתָנָתָן שָׁא וְלֵא בְּנָה קְרַח נָא אָתָנָתָן אָתָנָתָן אָתָנָתָן

H413 Saul's his son Take now one of the servants

H7586 H1121 H3947 H259 H5288

וְתַאֲבֵ בְּנָה לְךָ אֶת

with thee and arise seek And the asses

H6965 H1980 H1245 H860

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