

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

וְתִאֲבָדְנָה	וְהָאֲתֹנֹת:	וְקִישׁ	אָבִי	וְשָׂא וְלֹ	וַיֹּאמֶר	וְקִישׁ
were lost	And the asses	And Kish	father	Saul's	said	And Kish
H6	H860	H7027	H1	H7586	H559	H7027
אֶל	וְשָׂא וְלֹ	בְּנוֹ	קַח	וְאֵל	אֶתְךָ	אֶת
H413	Saul's	his son	Take	H4994	H854	H853
H7586	H1121	H3947				
					אֶחָד	מִהַנָּעֲרִים
					now one	of the servants
					H259	H5288
וְקִישׁ	וְהָאֲתֹנֹת:	בִּקֵּשׁ	אֶת	לִי		
with thee and arise	And the asses	seek				
H6965	H860	H1245	H853			