

1 Samuel 9:1-10:16 — Saul, The King People Wanted

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Have you ever wondered how much control God has over everyday lives? When you come out of Wal-Mart and have a flat tire in the parking lot, did God know that would happen? Did God have a reason for that happening? On that day you forgot to set your alarm so you woke up a few minutes late and were rushed to get to school on time, did God know that would happen? Did he have a reason for that happening? When the price of gas shot up at the pump this past week, was God as shocked as we were? How much control does God have over the little details of life? That is a question we will answer this morning.

If you are new, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors at CrossWinds. As a church, we are studying through the book of 1 Samuel. Today, we come to a very unique section of the book. We are looking at 1 Samuel 9 and the beginning of 1 Samuel 10.

Background

Last week in 1 Samuel 8, the elders of the people demanded Samuel give them a king. They wanted a king so they could be like all the nations around them. Prior to this, God was the king of the nation. God protected the nation. Samuel was the judge of the nation, but he was getting old. Samuel's sons were disasters and could never be his replacement. Rather than wanting to be a nation run and protected by God, the people rejected God as their king and wanted a human king so they could be like other nations.

Last week, Samuel spelled out the dangers of a human king and concentrating all the power in one person, but the people insisted they wanted a

king anyway. Last week, the chapter closed with Samuel sending everyone home. The question that hung in the air was, “Who will be the new king?” The answer to that question is a long and involved story that goes from 1 Samuel 9:1 to 12:25. Today we can only begin to get the answer.

In the interest of time, we won’t preread the text. We will simply read a few verses, then I will explain and apply them.

Meet Saul.

There was a man... 1 Samuel 9:1a (ESV)

That doesn’t sound important. These words should give us a clue that a new story is about to begin. 1 Samuel 1:1, which told us Samuel’s story, began with “There was a certain man...” The phrase, “There was a man” introduces us to a new character in this book. The man we are about to meet is Saul.

Saul’s Pedigree

There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. 1 Samuel 9:1 (ESV)

In terms of ancestry, Kish was a nobody. The men in his lineage are hardly mentioned elsewhere in the Bible. Kish was wealthy but he had no significant family background. Kish came from the tribe of Benjamin. That was no claim to fame. Benjamin was the smallest of Israel’s tribes and had a bad reputation as the tribes go.

Saul’s Person

And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. 1 Samuel 9:2 (ESV)

Here we are introduced to Saul. This is interesting. There is great irony in Saul that we can't see in English. In Hebrew, the name Saul means "asked for." Saul will become king. He is the king the people asked for so they can be like the other nations, the name of the king they get is "asked for."

The author of 1 Samuel is careful to tell us what he looks like. In terms of first impressions, he was amazing. He was handsome. The girls loved him. He looked like Brad Pitt. He looked like a model in a clothing catalog. To emphasize how impressive he was in his looks, it says there was not a man among the people that looked better than him. He had a perfect complexion. Chiseled abs. He looked like Captain America. He was a real specimen. Nobody in the entire nation was better looking than this guy.

In addition to being better looking than everyone else, he was also a head taller than everyone else. He stood out in a crowd because he stood above the crowd, at least a head taller.

If you were going to evaluate a person just by the way they look, Saul was exactly the kind of king you would choose. He was the best of the best. We know the truth. Looks aren't everything.

God changes our plans to move us to where he wants us to be for the work he has given us to do.

Saul's story begins with what looks like a rather ordinary problem. Saul had to find some lost animals that escaped from a pasture on his father's farm.

Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." 1 Samuel 9:3 (ESV)

Kish sent Saul with a servant to find the lost animals. What happened next was they followed a random route that didn't end up finding anything.

And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them. 1 Samuel 9:4 (ESV)

They were looking everywhere but couldn't find the lost donkeys.

When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us." 1 Samuel 9:5 (ESV)

These are the first words spoken by Saul in the Bible. While first impressions can be misleading, in this case, they are unavoidable. While Saul was physically impressive and had concern for his father, we also see some of his character flaws. For example, he had a limited commitment to the journey. He was ready to quit and go back. Saul, the country bumpkin, was not capable of finding lost donkeys. He was ready to throw in the towel and go home. In earlier parts of the Bible, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses were shepherds. They were good at finding lost sheep. Saul couldn't find much large animals, donkeys. This is the beginning of a lesson we will learn from the life of Saul.

Application: A person may look like a good leader but that doesn't mean he has the heart of a good leader. It is impossible to make an accurate judgment of someone by first impressions.

Saul looked like the leader everyone wanted, but that was just on the outside. He had serious character flaws on the inside that would plague his time as king.

The mention of the land of “Zuph” is worth exploring. Zuph was the great-great-great-grandfather of Samuel. We read about him in 1 Samuel 1:1. The land of Zuph was named after him. Apparently, Saul and his servant wandered into the region of Samuel’s hometown. Saul had no idea what was happening at this point. But Saul’s servant had an idea.

But he said to him, “Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go.” 1 Samuel 9:6 (ESV)

How did Saul’s servant know about the man of God? I don’t know. We can guess the identity of the man of God. It was Samuel. Here is something I find strange. As the story continues, we see Saul didn’t know a thing about Samuel. How did Saul not know about Samuel? 1 Samuel 3:20 told us everyone knew Samuel was a prophet of God. Samuel had served as judge of the land for the last 30 years. Samuel was used by God to deliver his people from the Philistines. Samuel was a national hero, yet Saul doesn’t know a thing about him. Saul was beginning to demonstrate another poor leadership quality. He was lacking in situational awareness. Saul was disconnected from what happened around him for the last 30 years. This is like someone not aware of the identity of the President of the United States. This lack of situational awareness would plague Saul when he was king.

Then Saul said to his servant, “But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?” 1 Samuel 9:7 (ESV)

At one level, Saul sounded like a good guy. If they were going to visit the seer to ask about finding their lost donkeys, they couldn’t expect something for nothing. They would have to pay Samuel something. Think about this more and

you can see some problems. They had no bread. They had no money. That shouldn't be a problem. Saul came from a wealthy house. He was Kish's son. He should have had plenty of money. Saul failed to plan and prepare for the journey. That also is not the sign of a good leader. A good leader would be better prepared for the journey. They wouldn't have run out of supplies.

The servant answered Saul again, "Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way." 1 Samuel 9:8 (ESV)

While Saul, the man with the wealthy father, did not bring enough money for the trip, his servant did. Who was better packed and better prepared for this search, Saul or the servant? The servant! The real leader is the servant, not Saul!

Now the story is interrupted to tell us a few details so we don't miss them.

(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer.) 1 Samuel 9:9 (ESV)

Do you get the hint? The man who was a seer, that we are about to meet, was a prophet. Who do you think they were about to meet?

And Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was. 1 Samuel 9:10 (ESV)

Notice Saul was not the leader in this situation. Even though he was in charge of the servant, he was following the servant. The servant was the one with initiative. The servant was planned and prepared. Later, when Saul became king, this part of his character would not change. He frequently followed the suggestions of others rather than thinking for himself and charting a course based on his faith and convictions.

This is the big lesson taught again in a new way. Just because someone looks impressive and appears to be a great leader, that doesn't mean his character on the inside will match. Spiritual life and character are more important than physical appearances.

Chance encounters are God's perfect timing.

As Saul and his servant approached the city of Ramah, events moved quickly.

As they went up the hill to the city, they met young women coming out to draw water and said to them, "Is the seer here?" 1 Samuel 9:11 (ESV)

Cities were typically built on a hill for defensive purposes. The well for the city was usually at the bottom of the hill because water runs downhill. Young women, usually in the evening, would go down the hill to get water and bring it back to the city. It turns out the exact timing of meeting these young women was remarkable. Saul and his servant met the young women coming out of the city to get water just as they were approaching the city.

They answered, "He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place." 1 Samuel 9:12 (ESV)

The young ladies told Saul and his servant, "This is perfect timing. We just passed him as we came out of the city. He is right in front of you. He just came back to the city from one of his preaching journeys. There is a sacrifice at the high place in the city, and he is heading there." Remember nobody has cell phones. Finding someone in a city was a hard thing to do, but these women just passed Samuel and directed Saul and his servant right to him.

Was this all happening by chance? No. The world of lost donkeys was intentionally being steered into Samuel where we left off in the last chapter.

As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately." 1 Samuel 9:13 (ESV)

"Samuel is at the gate of the city right now. If you hurry, you will be able to catch him. He is an old guy so he probably doesn't move too fast. The people won't eat until he prays for the sacrifice." This is like a pastor being asked to pray before a public dinner. Praying for the meal is a pastor's job. It was Samuel's job. The women had no idea the significance of this meal or why Samuel set it up. Saul and his servant had no idea. The people didn't seem to have an idea. All of this looks like one strange coincidence, but it was not. It was all set up and coordinated, every last little detail by God.

So they went up to the city. As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place. 1 Samuel 9:14 (ESV)

Saul and Samuel literally bumped into one another. Saul was going into the city gate. Samuel was heading out of the city gate. What looked like a complete coincidence and chance meeting was all part of God's perfect timing to get Samuel and Saul together.

Before we go any further, we have a flashback.

Flashback To The Day Before

Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed to Samuel: "Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me." 1 Samuel 9:15–16 (ESV)

This flashback starts to explain everything. The curiously ordinary events of Saul being sent with his servant to look for lost donkeys and not being able to find them then the search bringing them to Zuph at the right time and meeting young women who know where to find Samuel then literally running into Samuel as they cross paths in the city gate was all part of God's perfect plan to bring Saul and Samuel together for Saul to become king.

Application: God is large and in charge of our lives. Nothing in our lives, even the littlest details, happens by chance. All the random wandering in the woods was not random. God had a purpose for it and was directing Saul and his servant in it. This is also true in your life and mine. Some of us feel just like Saul this morning. Our entire lives feel like pointless wandering in the woods looking for something we can't find, just like Saul. We may feel that way, but that is not the truth. God is large and in charge of us. He has a good plan and purpose for us. He is guiding and directing us to be at the places he wants us to be to meet the people he wants us to meet to accomplish the work he has given us to do. Nothing, even the small things in our lives, are purposeless or happening by chance. As Christians, this is especially true. If God loves us enough that his own son would die for us and loves us enough to adopt us into the family of God and make us the most blessed beings in the universe, do you think God will forget about us and have no good purpose for us and our lives?

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)

There is another point of application found in these verses.

Application: God has a heart of compassion for his people that are suffering. God is full of compassion and love for his people. God heard the cry of his people when they were oppressed by the Philistines. God was raising up Saul to save them from that oppression. In one sense, nothing had changed. God didn't just care about the sufferings of his people then. He cares about the sufferings of his people today. God loves you. He sent his son to rescue you from the lake of fire and to bring you into a relationship with God now. That doesn't mean we won't have hard times, but we know God loves us and responds to the call of his people for help.

Now we return to the story.

Saul was the guest of honor at a dinner he didn't expect.

When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people." 1 Samuel 9:17 (ESV)

Now, for the first time, God specifically identified to Samuel Saul as the man he spoke about the day before. There is an interesting line about Samuel. He it is who shall restrain my people. What does that mean?

The word restrain means to hinder. Even though Saul would be the king of the nation, he would be used by God to restrain and hold back the nation. Saul would not just save the nation but he would also be God's punishment on the nation. The bad government decisions, bad policies, and bad behavior would hinder the nation. Saul wouldn't just be the king of the nation but he would also be the one to hold the nation back from God's best for it. Now doesn't that sound like modern politics? Isn't that what many politicians do? With their bad policies

and bad choices, they are a judgment on the nation and punishment for the nation.

Please don't take what I am saying as political. It is not meant that way. It is biblical. I am simply showing you the way God works in a nation. He brings punishment to a nation through the bad policies and bad leadership of the leaders in the nation.

Let's get back to the story. As usual, Saul was clueless. He would always be at least one step behind the rest of the world.

Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, "Tell me where is the house of the seer?" 1 Samuel 9:18 (ESV)

Saul still had no idea what Samuel looked like. He had no idea what was going on. He was still looking for lost donkeys.

Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father's house?" 1 Samuel 9:19–20 (ESV)

Don't you wish you could have seen the expression on Saul's face? Saul didn't even know Samuel, and before they had a conversation, when they have just met for the first time, Samuel began by telling Saul his lost donkeys were found three days before. Then he told Saul that the next day he would tell Saul what else he was thinking. Samuel looked like a literal mind reader as God gave him all that information.

In addition, Samuel told Saul he just won the lottery. "For whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not you? You just won!" Can you imagine what Saul was thinking? He was completely freaked. That is what we find.

Saul answered, “Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?” 1 Samuel 9:21 (ESV)

“Whom are you talking about? Me? I am just a humble country boy. I am a farm boy. I come from the smallest tribe, the humblest of clans. I come from the backwoods. What are you talking about old man? How do you know so much about me and what I am thinking?”

Then Samuel took Saul and his young man and brought them into the hall and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, who were about thirty persons. 1 Samuel 9:22 (ESV)

This would have further freaked Saul out. Samuel grabbed Saul’s arm and brought him into the banquet hall and placed him at the head of the table. Saul was the guest of honor for the meal. Remember the meal was prepared ahead of time. Samuel knew God would bring a man from Benjamin to him 24 hours after God spoke to him. That man was to be anointed king. Samuel set up a special meal for this man even though he had no idea who it was. Samuel knew the man would be arriving the next day.

Saul started out in the woods looking for his dad’s lost donkeys, then he was with Samuel and ushered in to the be honored guest at the meal. God orchestrated all of this.

And Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, ‘Put it aside.’” So the cook took up the leg and what was on it and set them before Saul. And Samuel said, “See, what was kept is set before you. Eat, because it was kept for you until the hour appointed, that you might eat with the guests.” So Saul ate with Samuel that day. 1 Samuel 9:23–24 (ESV)

This is really freaky. They even had Saul’s dinner ordered, cooked and ready for him. God had this all timed down to the very hour so the food was still hot when Saul arrived. Was God organizing all these details?

The story picks up after the feast.

And when they came down from the high place into the city, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep. 1 Samuel 9:25 (ESV)

This makes sense. Remember that Saul and his servant were out of food. I am sure they pigged out for the meal. Now Saul had a food coma. He went to sleep at Samuel's house.

Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Up, that I may send you on your way." So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street. 1 Samuel 9:26 (ESV)

Apparently, Samuel was an early riser. He got Saul out of bed, kicked him out of the house, and sent him on his way as soon as the sun came up. No chance to sleep in. What was the rush, unless something special was about to happen? Let's find out.

As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God." 1 Samuel 9:27 (ESV)

Samuel walked Saul and his servant just outside the city. Samuel told Saul to send his servant ahead. Samuel wanted to talk to Saul privately. He had God's words to speak to him. What was God going to say to Saul? Let's find out.

Samuel anointed Saul as leader over the people.

Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage." 1 Samuel 10:1 (ESV)

While we know what was happening when Saul was anointed, Saul who was always a little behind the curve, was trying to figure out what Samuel did when he poured oil over his head. Samuel's words explained his actions. Notice

again that Saul was not anointed as king. He was anointed as the prince. The word prince is another word for leader. The good-looking country bumpkin was now anointed to be the leader over Israel. He was anointed for the mission of saving God's people from their enemies.

In case he didn't believe this anointing from God was real, Samuel told Saul God would give Saul three signs to prove it. Samuel would now tell Saul exactly how ordinary events in his life would unfold. This goes back to what we learned earlier. God is in control of all the little details of our lives.

Three Signs

When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?" ' 1 Samuel 10:2 (ESV)

That is pretty specific!

Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. 1 Samuel 10:3-4 (ESV)

This is freaky. You will meet three men carrying groceries. Then Samuel told Saul the specific groceries they would be carrying. He told him that one of the guys would give him two loaves of bread. Saul was to accept them. This is pretty crazy specific.

Does God have all the details of our lives organized ahead of time? Yes, he does. If I was Saul, after the first sign, I would have walked faster to the next place trying to throw off God's timing. Of course, that wouldn't have worked

because God would have known I planned to walk faster to the second place so the timing would have worked out perfectly anyway.

After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 1 Samuel 10:5–6 (ESV)

This sign is even stranger. The first surprise is that in Gibeath-Elohim there was a garrison of Philistines. In Hebrew, Gibeath-Elohim means the hill of God. What were a bunch of Philistine soldiers doing stationed deep in Israelite territory? Saul was just chosen by God to save God's people from this kind of people and this kind of enemy.

This last sign was to be the time when God's spirit rushed onto Saul and changed him into another man. There is a lesson here.

Application: God will give us the gifts we need to accomplish the work God has given us to do. God was not going to call Saul to the task of leading God's people without changing him and gifting him with the skills and abilities he needed to accomplish that task. This is also true for each of us. Many times God puts us in a position or gives us a task that is beyond our natural gifting and ability. If God has put us there, he will gift us and equip us to be there, even if that means giving us gifts that are beyond our normal gift mix.

As for the band of prophets in this passage, we do not know a lot about these guys. These are not prophets with a capital "P" like Samuel was a prophet of God. I think these guys are like an Old Testament version of the charismatics.

They like to make noise with their instruments. They get really excited. They have some kind of prophetic utterance when that happens.

The key thing to remember is when Saul saw this third sign, he would be changed into another man. He would be gifted, equipped, and ready to do what God called him to do --- get rid of the Philistines.

Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. 1 Samuel 10:7 (ESV)

This doesn't mean doing anything Saul wanted. This phrase is a Hebrew idiom. It is also found in Judges 9:33. It refers to taking military action against an enemy. With the anointing of God, the promise that God would be with him, with the confirming signs, and the experience of God changing him into another man, he was to get busy and go to battle against the Philistines. The garrison of Philistines at Gibeath-Elohim would be a good place to start.

Then there is a second set of instructions.

"Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do." 1 Samuel 10:8 (ESV)

Samuel would meet with Saul seven days after this. At that time, Samuel would offer burnt offerings and peace offerings. Peace offerings are also known as fellowship offerings. They are offered in celebration. This meeting at Gilgal was to be a thankful celebration of the victory that Saul was to win over the Philistine garrison at Gibeah.

What did Saul do with God's choice of him and the gifts given to him?

When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. 1 Samuel 10:9 (ESV)

The new heart began to come early. God began changing Saul's temperament and gifting immediately so he was capable of leading the people into war. The country boy was no longer himself.

In addition, all of the three signs Samuel gave him were fulfilled just as Samuel said they would be. There should be no question in Saul's mind that God was on his side and was equipping him for the job God gave him to do.

When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" 1 Samuel 10:10–11 (ESV)

Gibeah was Saul's hometown. The people who knew Saul immediately recognized the change in him.

And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" 1 Samuel 10:12 (ESV)

Saul was obviously a changed man. Saul knew about the long trip to see Samuel that ended at the perfect time so he arrived at dinner. He experienced Samuel's anointing. He experienced the three confirmatory signs. God had changed him into another man. What we are expecting is Saul would get to business and attack the Philistines. That wasn't what happened.

When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place. Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." 1 Samuel 10:13–14 (ESV)

He finished prophesying. He ran across his uncle, who asked Saul where he had been for the last few days. Saul completely avoided talking about everything that happened to him. All he told his uncle about was looking for lost donkeys and meeting Samuel. When he mentioned Samuel, his uncle was

interested to hear more. Saul avoided any discussion about what happened to him again.

And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything. 1 Samuel 10:15–16 (ESV)

All Saul talked about was the donkeys. He was too passive, too afraid, too timid to speak the truth. Saul looked like a great leader with his physical appearance and imposing height, but he didn't have the character to be that leader. He didn't obey God's word. He had been given the supernatural gifting to do the job but he never put it into action.

Friends, I don't know about you, but this is sometimes where I find myself --- called by God, gifted by God, but too passive to get about the work of God. I know at times that is me. Is it also you?

Applications

Before we close, let me just remind you of one message that comes screaming out of this text. God is in control of every little part of life. Saul's search for lost donkeys was part of God's perfect plan to bring Saul and Samuel together for the perfect timing of a hot meal together. The three ordinary prophecies Samuel gave about Saul were fulfilled exactly as Samuel said.

God wasn't just in charge of the little details in Saul's life. He is in charge of every little detail in your life and mine. We are not wandering aimlessly in the wilderness of life. God is moving us to the people he wants us to meet, to the places he wants us to go, to accomplish the work God has given us to do.

That doesn't mean God's plan for our lives will always be easy. I was reading through Genesis recently and looking at the story of Joseph. His brothers sold him into slavery. God used that wickedness to be the very means God used to bring Joseph to Egypt for the saving of many lives in a famine, even the lives of the brothers who betrayed him. None of that happened by chance. God had a good plan for Joseph's life, he was in charge of all the little details of Saul and Samuel's life, and he is in charge of all the little details in your life and mine as well.



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