

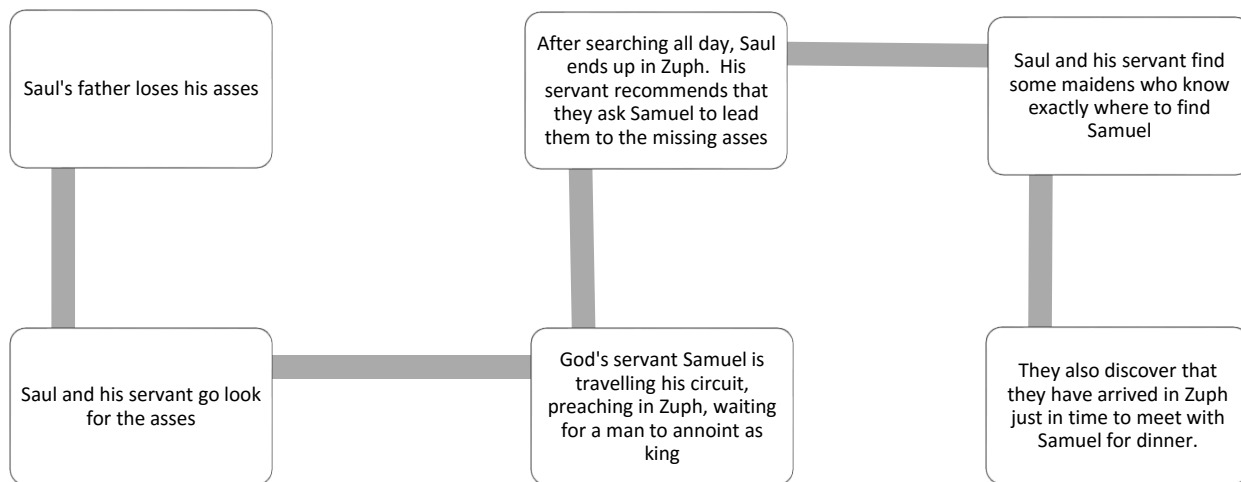
FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 16: Chapter 9, Vss. 1-16, Circumstances and Coincidences

7 October 2016

Incidental Bible principles found in this passage:

1. It is proper for God's people to support God's preacher (Vss. 7-8). See 1 Timothy 5:18, Matthew 10:10, 1 Corinthians 9:9-11, Galatians 6:6.
2. Before Elijah began his ministry, men who prophesied in ages before that time were called "Seers" (vs. 9). God purposefully made this distinction in order to separate between three major dispensations mentioned in the Bible: The Law, the Prophets, and "the righteousness of God without the Law" (Romans 3:21). See also Luke 16:16, John 1:45, Acts 13:15, and Matthew 22:40.
3. You ought to ask God to bless your meal before you eat (vs. 13). See Matt. 26:26, Mark 6:41, Luke 24:30, and 1 Timothy 4:4.



To Saul and his servant these events may have appeared to be coincidental "chance happenings," but it is clear to the Bible reader that God arranged the circumstances which led Saul to be in the right place at the right time.

Similarly, we often point to coincidence or chance when we ought to recognize God's divine leading in our lives.

Looking back, you might recall events, people, and situations which led you to the foot of the cross where you received eternal life. Each of those things were part of God's drawing you to Christ (John 6:44, 12:32, Hosea 11:4, 2 Pet. 3:9)

"There is none that seeketh after God" (Rom. 3:11). We all, like sheep, have gone astray (Isa. 53:6).

Therefore, God is going to have to seek us and lead us in the right paths so we can end up in the right place.

Bible examples of God working in the circumstances of someone's life:

1. Saul of Tarsus: a trained Pharisee on his way to persecute believers. He met Jesus on the road to Damascus.
2. Korah: an earthquake “*happened to*” open up the earth and swallow up him and his family.
3. Samson: a lad was there to lead him to the pillars of the arena.
4. Abraham: a ram was caught in the thickets up on the mountain when he needed to make a sacrifice to God.
5. Rebekah: appeared in the right place to meet Abraham's servant in search of a bride for Isaac.
6. Jesus' disciples: a colt was discovered tied up exactly where Jesus sent them.
7. Peter: caught a fish with a coin in its mouth when they needed some tax money.

If you're one of Jesus' sheep, He will lead you to the green pastures (Psalm 23:2, Rev. 7:17, John 10:3-4). He won't leave you on your own to figure things out. We don't know which way to go without the Good Shepherd.

PSALM 37:23-24 God wants to order your steps so that you can delight in his way. If you go God's way, He will delight in your steps. You're going to fall somewhere along the way, but the Lord will be there to help you go on.

You may try to devise your own way in life (**Prov. 16:9**), but God is the one who is going to direct your steps.

JEREMIAH 10:23-24 God's prophet said that he KNOWS—man cannot direct his own steps. It is not IN us to do so. We need to ask God to correct us when we go astray.

If you want to walk according to God's will, you need to be attentive to His leading. You need to turn your life over to Him and allow Him to rule your life and guide you in your way. That doesn't guarantee that you won't come across some difficulties along the way (Jesus had plenty), but you'll know you're in the right place at the right time—because God has led you there. Take comfort in that.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; ¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)