

- I) V1-2 INTRO: There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of
 - a) AS WE BEGIN: Up until this time Israel had been led by Judges and prophets
 - 1) Samuel is the last Judge, and he has now grown old: perhaps 60 years of age

- II) HE HAD TWO SONS: Joel and Abijah
 - a) These two sons did not walk in his ways, and the nation of Israel rejected them
 - 1) They turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice
 - 2) This provoked the elders of Israel to approach Samuel: they rejected them and demand a king

- III) AS I MENTIONED BEFORE: God had anticipated such a request
 - a) He had made provisions for a king, but said that He would select the king
 - 1) He also stated that the king would govern using scripture as his guide
 - 2) Dt 17:18-19 It shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and *he shall read it all the days of his life*, that he may learn *to fear the LORD* his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes

- IV) THE KING WAS TO FEAR GOD: And to read God's word and keep it *all the days of his life*
 - a) The fear of God and love and knowledge of His word would make it possible for him to rule well
 - 1) All know that good men and women should occupy positions of authority
 - 2) Pr 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.
 - 3) Ps 72:1-2 (A Psalm of Solomon) Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king's Son. He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice.

- V) SAMUEL: Was greatly displeased with their request, being hurt by their rejection
 - a) As he took their request to God, the Lord made it clear it was God who was being rejected
 - 1) God simply said to him, Heed their voice but solemnly forewarn them of what he will do

- VI) SAMUEL DID SO: And let them know that the king would dominate them
 - a) THEIR MOTIVES: We want a king that we might be *like all the nations* (8:20)
 - 1) We do not want a godly king: we want to be free of being under the Law of Moses!
 - 2) We want a separation of church and state!

- VII) ALSO: The people wanted a centralized government localized in a single leader
 - a) The judges' activities were not centered in one location
 - 1) Samuel lived in Ramah, but would travel from place to place to preach and lead the nation

- VIII) THE FACT IS: Their enemies the Philistines had a system of government divided into 5 leaders
 - a) The elders thought one king could unite the nation and lead more effectively
 - 1) The Lord told Samuel to listen to the people, so Samuel sent them home
 - 2) We are now introduced to Israel's first king: Saul

- IX) V1 THERE: Was a man of *Benjamin* whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of
 - a) Kish was Saul's father, a man who belonged to the *tribe of Benjamin*
 - 1) Jacob had 12 sons, the youngest being Benjamin who became his favorite son
 - 2) It was a small tribe, but had much influence in the nation

- I) V2 AND: He had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul (asked of God)

- a) Immediately we have an opportunity of evaluating this man
 - 1) From the beginning, you can see that this man was a winner of the People's Choice Award

- II) NOTICE: He had several unearned qualities
 - a) FIRST: His father was a *man of power*, which speaks of wealth and influence
 - b) SECOND: He was choice (relatively young) and handsome
 - c) THIRD: He was tall

- III) THE FACT IS: Not a single of these qualities were the result of anything *he had done*
 - a) Yet the combination of these qualities are exactly what people use to determine whom they like
 - 1) People listen to the young, tall, handsome, and wealthy

- IV) ON 3/5: Brad Pitt went to Congress to exhort them concerning *disaster relief* and *green collar* jobs
 - a) He met with many national leaders, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
 - 1) It really is an honor to have him here and I know for some of my staff, and for bragging rights to my children and my grandchildren, a real treat for me as well," Pelosi said at the press conference, which was carried live by some television networks.

- V) J. VERNON MCGEE: Would in no way look at himself as a prophet
 - a) In 1982, J. Vernon McGee wrote: The most dangerous enemy we have is the television. The man that will ultimately control this country is the man who has a good television appearance. *Why?* Because we choose men by the way they look and the way they talk rather than by their character. If only we had an X-ray, instead of the television, that would reveal the *true character* of a man!

- VI) SAUL: Was wealthy, handsome, and tall and none of those were things *he earned in life*
 - a) Ultimately we will see his lack of character

- VII) V3-6 NOW: The donkeys of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to his son Saul Please take
 - a) Lost donkeys were lost wealth, so instead of sending servants, his father sent him to find them
 - 1) This may be a bit of Jewish humor
 - 2) While Saul is looking for his father's donkeys, the donkeys of Israel are looking for a king

- VIII) V4 SO: He passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha
 - a) Ephraim territory is located just north of Jerusalem: Shalisha and Shaalim are unknown

- IX) V5-6 WHEN: They had come to the land of Zuph Saul said to his servant who was with him
 - a) Zuph is believed to be *the area* where the city of Ramah was located, north of Jerusalem
 - 1) He gets concerned that they might get lost, too so he comes up with a plan
 - 2) He decides to go looking for Samuel, whom he knows to be a man of God (prophet--2:27)

- X) V7-8 THEN: Saul said to his servant But look if we go what shall we bring the man? For the bread
 - a) It was customary to give a gift when making requests of prophets: food, and money
 - 1) They had no food, as it had been eaten so they give a very generous *financial gift*
 - 2) This custom actually was susceptible to abuse, as seen in Jesus' day
 - 3) Mk 12:40 (They) devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers

- I) V9-10 FORMERLY: In Israel when a man went to inquire of God he spoke thus: Come let us go to
 - a) In earlier days, they were referred to as *seers* because they knew or could see *the future*

- 1) It became a word used for spiritists and necromancers, so the title was changed to *prophet*
 - 2) **IMPORTANT:** Samuel actually becomes the first of an *order of prophets*
- II) V11-13 AS: They went up the hill to the city they met some young women going out to draw water
- a) Before the temple was built, the high place would be a location for worship and sacrifice
 - 1) It was used because it was most visible to all below, who could see what was taking place
 - 2) *High Places* also were used by pagans, so they were condemned by God
 - 3) Num 33:52 You shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places
- III) V13 SAMUEL: Had just arrived in the city and was just ahead of them
- a) He had come to make an offering to the Lord, and the people were waiting for him to do this
 - 1) They would not eat their meals until a *prayer of thanks* had been offered
- IV) V14-16 SO: They went up to the city. As they were coming into the city there was Samuel
- a) How did the LORD tell Samuel about what he was to do?
 - 1) V15 He simply spoke words that Samuel would hear (like when he was called)
- V) V16 NOTICE: I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin and you shall anoint him commander
- a) HIS ORDERS: You are going to anoint him, setting him apart for service
 - 1) He is going to be the commander: One given prominence, one placed in front to rule
- VI) WHY DID GOD DO THIS: Because their cry had come to Him
- a) The people had been crying out for deliverance from the Philistines, and He had heard them
 - 1) Just as He had heard them when they cried out for deliverance from Egypt
 - 2) Ex 3:7-9 The LORD said: "I have surely *seen* the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have *heard their cry* because of their taskmasters, for *I know* their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel *has come to Me*, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.
- VII) V17-21 SO: When Samuel saw Saul the LORD said to him *There he is the man of whom I spoke to you*
- a) God pointed him out to Samuel, making sure that there was no confusion
 - 1) **OBVIOUSLY:** Saul was unaware of what was taking place
 - 2) V19 He asks where the seer's house is, and Samuel identifies himself to him (ordinary appearance)
- VIII) V20 BUT: As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago do not be anxious about them
- a) NOTICE: He also answers a question that had yet to be asked
 - 1) One of the requirements of a true prophet is that they are 100% accurate
 - 2) Dt 18:22 When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.
- I) V20 NOTE: He says And on whom is *all the desire* of Israel? Is it not on you and all your father's house
- a) **THOUGHT:** You are to be the focus of all of Israel's attention

- 1) They are trusting in you, and have rejected Me
- II) **THEY HAD: God as their king and who went before them**
 - a) They will soon look to you for military victories over her enemies (8:19-20)
 - 1) Ex 15:2-3 The LORD *is* my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He *is* my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. The LORD *is* a man of war; The LORD *is* His name.
- III) **OUTREACH MAGAZINE:**
 - a) 36% Believe in UFO's, 80% Believe in God, 59% believe in a literal devil, 24% believe in reincarnation, 31% believe in astrology,
 - 1) HOW DID THIS HAPPEN: 36% believe the Bible is God's word
- IV) **V21 AND: Saul answered and said Am I not a Benjamite of the smallest of the tribes of Israel and my**
 - a) This is an answer that actually have a bit of humility in it
 - 1) YET: The true test of humility is not at the beginning, when things are small but later
- V) **V22-26 NOW: Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall and had them**
 - a) As Saul sat at the place of honor, in the presence of thirty men of honor
 - 1) He was seated in a place of honor, with his servant representing a king and his cabinet
- VI) **V23-24 AND SAMUEL: Said to the cook Bring the portion which I gave you of which I said to you**
 - a) Priests ate the right portion of the thigh as it was the best portion, and was theirs (Lev 7:32)
 - 1) Samuel gave him a choice portion of meat, and may have even given what was his
 - 2) This would have been a demonstration of honor
- VII) **V25-26 WHEN: They had come down from the high place into the city Samuel spoke with Saul**
 - a) Samuel provided a place for Saul and his servant to spend the night
 - 1) The next day, Samuel awakened him and was about to send him on his way
- VIII) **V27 AS THEY: Were going down to the outskirts of the city Samuel said to Saul Tell the servant**
 - a) On the road, Samuel told the servant to move out of earshot, and instructed Saul
 - 1) At that time, the one who had left his father's house in search of donkeys was called to be king
 - 2) SADLY: It was an office he was in no way worthy of, and Israel would suffer for it