

- I) V1-2 INTRO: There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel
REVIEW
- II) Up until the time of Samuel, Israel had been led by Judges and prophets
Samuel was the last Judge, and was now old: perhaps 60-70 years of age
- III) As we have seen, Samuel had two sons, Joel and Abijah
These two sons did not walk in his ways, and the nation of Israel rejected them
- IV) They were like the sons of Eli who also were unrighteous men
Joel and Abijah went after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice
- V) This provoked the elders of Israel to approach Samuel
They rejected these unrighteous men, which was understandable
They rejected Samuel's sons and demanded a king
AS I MENTIONED BEFORE
- VI) God had anticipated this kind of request
He had made provisions for a king, but said that **He** would select the king
- VII) He said that the king he selected would govern, using scripture as his guide
Around three hundred years earlier, God had already made provision
Dt 17:18-19 It shall be, when he (the king) 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
- VIII) Israel's king was to fear God and read and keep God's word **all the days of his life**
The fear of God and love and knowledge of His word made it possible to rule well
- IX) All know that good men and women should occupy positions of authority
God's word gives wisdom and when followed produces integrity
Leaders with character inspire others to have integrity and to act ethically
- X) Leaders with the fear of God put themselves and can bring blessings to others
Pr 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.

- I) This is why it is good for us to pray for righteous leadership, even in our day
1 Ti 2:1-2 I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.
- II) Samuel was greatly displeased with their request and impacted by their rejection
As he took their request to God, God made it clear it was He being rejected
God said, Heed their voice but solemnly forewarn them of what the king will do
- III) Samuel did this, and let them know that the king **would dominate** them
WHY DID THEY WANT A KING
- IV) They said: We want a king that we might be **like all the nations** (8:20)
We want a king to judge us and go out before us and fight our battles
- V) God had promised to be the One who went before them and fought for them
Dt 20:4 The Lord your God goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory
WE WANT A MAN, NOT A GODLY KING
- VI) We also want a centralized government that would be localized in a single leader
The judges' activities were not necessarily centralized in one location
Samuel lived in Ramah, but traveled around to preach and lead the nation
ON THE OTHER HAND
- VII) Their enemies the Philistines had a system of government divided into 5 leaders
The elders thought one king could unite the nation and lead more effectively
- VIII) The Lord told Samuel to listen to the people, so Samuel sent them home
At this point, 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 Kish was Saul's father, a man who belonged to the **tribe of Benjamin**
He was a very wealthy man
GENESIS RECORDS
- X) Jacob had 12 sons, the youngest being Benjamin who became his favorite son
It was a small tribe, but had much influence in the nation
- XI) V2 And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul (**asked of God**)

- I) Immediately we have an opportunity of evaluating this man
From the beginning, you can see that this man won the People's Choice Award
NOTICE
- II) He had several unearned qualities
His father was a **man of power**, which speaks of wealth and influence
He was **choice** (relatively young) and **handsome**
He was **tall**
FACT
- III) Not a single of these qualities were the result of anything **he had accomplished**
He had nothing to do with his father's wealth, lineage, age, or looks
- IV) Yet these qualities are what people use to determine whom they prefer
People listen to the popular, young, tall, handsome, and wealthy
How I was introduced in St. George: an old man
- V) This is because it is a human habit to judge books according to their covers
- VI) 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!
- VII) He was wealthy, handsome, and tall and none of those things **were earned**
- VIII) V3 The donkeys of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to his son Saul
Lost donkeys were lost wealth
instead of sending servants, his father sent him to find them
- IX) This may be a bit of Jewish humor
While Saul is looking for donkeys, the donkeys of Israel are looking for a king
- X) V4 He passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha
Ephraim territory is located N of Jerusalem: Shalisha and Shaalim are unknown
- XI) V5-6 They had come to the land of Zuph Saul said to his servant who was with him
Zuph is believed to be *the area* where the city of Ramah was located, N of Jerusalem

- I) He gets concerned that they might get lost, too so he comes up with a plan
He decides to look for Samuel, whom he knows as a man of God (prophet--2:27)
- II) V7-8 Saul said to his servant But look if we go what shall we bring the man?
It was customary to give a gift when making requests: food, and money
They had no food, as it had been eaten so they give a very generous *financial gift*
- III) This custom was susceptible to abuse, as seen in Jesus' day
Mk 12:40 (They) devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers
- IV) V9-10 In Israel when a man went to inquire of God he spoke thus: Come let us go
In earlier days, they were called **seers** because they knew or could **see the future**
Seers emphasizes the visual aspect of receiving divine revelation
- V) They provided counsel to kings and delivered God's messages to the people.
They also provided guidance, rebuke, and encouragement to God's people
- VI) Because they brought rebuke, Israel often rejected their proclamations
Is 30:10 They say to the seers, See no more visions! And to the prophets, Give us
no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions!
- VII) The attitude Israel had in the OT is also an attitude that last days people will have
2 Ti 4:3-4 For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but
with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires.
So they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.
- VIII) Seers became a word used for spiritists and necromancers, so became *prophet*
Samuel at this time becomes the first of an **order of prophets**
- IX) V11-13 As they went up the hill to the city they met some young women going out
Before the temple was built, the high place was used for worship and sacrifice
It was used because it was visible to all below who could see what was happening
- X) **High Places** were also used by pagans, so they were condemned by God
Nu 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

- I) V13 Samuel had just arrived in the city and was just ahead of them
He had come to make an offering, and the people were waiting for him to do this
They would not eat their meals until a **prayer of thanks** had been offered
- II) Feeding of the 5,000
Mt 14:19 He directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.
- III) Feeding of the 4,000
Mt 15:36 He took the seven loaves and the fish, and when He had given thanks, He broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.
- IV) The Last Supper
Lu 22:19 He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me
APPLICATION
- V) This is a great habit to develop in your family
1 Ti 4:4-5 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God **and prayer**.
- VI) V14 So they went up to the city (Ramah). As they were coming into the city there Samuel was on his way to make an offering to the Lord
- VII) V15 Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came
How did the LORD tell Samuel about what he was to do?
He simply spoke words that Samuel would hear (like when he was called)
- VIII) V16 **I will send you a** man from the land of Benjamin and you shall anoint him
All of this was done at the direction of God
- IX) God's timing is always perfect
The Philistines were constant enemies of Israel
They had been subdued for a season but were once again preparing to battle
- X) Israel had been living in peace and had become complacent
As they were living peacefully, their peace became routine

- I) This gave them time to once again move towards rejecting being under God
They were wanting to be like the lands around them, with their own king
- II) As they were becoming disgruntled, they began demanding a king
They were not even aware that trouble was brewing
- III) The Philistines were getting ready to once again invade Israel
God knew what the Philistines were planning to do
Samuel was now old and no longer able to lead them to victory
Israel would now be more vulnerable to their attack
- IV) V16 God said he would send Saul to him, and he was to anoint him
He was to set him apart for service as commander: one who is to rule
He was to fight the battles of the Lord, to protect God's people
- V) In Israel, the king was to represent God, in battle
Though he would lead the armies, Israel knew God gave the victory
Ps 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God

WHY DID GOD DO THIS

- VI) Because their cry had come to Him
The people had been crying out for deliverance and He had heard them
Ps 18:6 In my distress I called upon the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry for His help reached His ears
- VII) God knew their need and He knew how they would cry out to Him
Is 65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear
- VIII) God prepared to deliver them, even as He had delivered their fathers in Egypt
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.

- I) V17 When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said to him **There he is the man** of whom God pointed him out to Samuel, making sure that there was no confusion
OBVIOUSLY: Saul was unaware of what was taking place
- II) V18-19 Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate and said Please tell me Samuel was leaving the city through a gate and Saul approached him
- III) V19 He asks where the seer's house is, and Samuel identifies himself to him
This tells us that Samuel had an ordinary appearance
- IV) V19 Go up before me to the high place for you shall eat with me today
This was a special honor that Samuel bestowed on Saul
- V) Tomorrow, I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart
Tomorrow I will give insight into your future and your heart's desires
I will answer the questions that caused you to come here in the first place
TO SHOW HE IS GENUINE
- VI) V20 As for your donkeys that were lost 3 days ago do not be anxious about them
He answers a question that had yet to be asked
One of the requirements of a true prophet is that they are 100% accurate
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.
- VII) V20 He says And on whom is **all the desire** of Israel? **Is it not on you** and all your **THOUGHT**
- VIII) You are to be the focus of all of Israel's attention
They are trusting in you, and have rejected God, and me
- IX) Israel had God as their king and it was God who went before them
When the Philistines had captured the Ark of the Covenant, God moved
He judged the Philistines, and they had stopped plaguing Israel for a time
- X) Israel knew at that time that God was the One who saved them
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.

- I) Sadly, they will soon look to you for military victories over her enemies (8:19-20)
- II) V21 Saul answered and said Am I not a Benjamite of the smallest of the tribes of
I am from a small, insignificant tribe: how can this be?
How can I, from such a small tribe, be given rule over the other mightier tribes?
- III) This is an answer that has a bit of humility in it
He seems to have an awareness of how incapable he was for such a task
- IV) Humility is revealed in how we view ourselves and how we exercise authority
1 Ti 1:15-16 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.
- V) Saul at first responds with humility
The true test of humility is not at the beginning, when things are small but later
- VI) V22 Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall
As Saul sat at the place of honor, in the presence of thirty men of honor
- VII) He was seated in a place of honor, with his servant representing his cabinet
This would have been overwhelming as he sat before the distinguished leaders
- VIII) V23-24 Samuel said to the cook Bring the portion which I gave you of which I said
Priests ate this portion as it was the best part, and was theirs (Lev 7:32)
- IX) Samuel gave him a choice portion of meat, and may have even given what was his
This would have been a demonstration of honor: he was to be king
- X) V25-26 When they had come down from the high place into the city Samuel spoke
Samuel provided a place for Saul and his servant to spend the night
The next day, Samuel awakened him and was about to send him on his way
- XI) V27 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city Samuel said to Saul Tell
On the road, Samuel told the servant to move out of earshot, and instructed Saul

- I) **There are some things that are not to be shared with everyone
Samuel wanted to communicate something that was of divine importance
He was about to share with him what God was intending for him to hear**

- II) **The one who had left his father's house in search of donkeys was going to be king
Sadly, it was an office he was in no way worthy of, and Israel would suffer for it
This is why we are careful about what we ask for**