

RISE OF THE KING AND THE NEED FOR A GREATER KING

1 & 2 SAMUEL

REVIEW

GIVE US A KING

ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING

- Samuel's sons = corrupt judges
- Fear of a leadership crisis
- Elders demanded a King "like the nations."
- Problem – rejecting the LORD as king

SPIRITUAL PROBLEM

- “They have rejected ME as their king”
- Wanted visible security
- Worldly leadership & military strength
- Samuel prayed & warned the people

WARNING OF KINGSHIP

- He will take your sons, daughters, land and wealth
- Will bring taxes, labor, and burdens
- Wanting freedom → Losing freedom
- Key word of the kingship: TAKE
- Human power demands a price

ISRAEL REFUSES TO LISTEN

- Rejected Samuel's warning
- "We must have a king over us."
- Wanted to be "like all the other nations."
- God allowed the request – no approval

ISRAEL REFUSES TO LISTEN

- No celebration
- Chapter ends with a warning

SECTION OVERVIEW: ADVENT OF MONARCHY

1 SAMUEL 8:1 – 15:35

THE STORY OF SAUL

- 1 Samuel 8–12: The Rise of Saul
- Israel demands a **King**
- Saul is chosen and confirmed
- Samuel warns the people to remain faithful to the LORD

LESSON 13:
THE SEARCH THAT LED TO
A KING

1 SAMUEL 9:1-27

LESSON 13:
THE SEARCH FOR A KING

PRIVATE INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCING SAUL

- Chapter Shift:
 - Israel's demand for a king
 - God's providential selection of a king
- People **ASKED** in rebellion
- God is still in control of the situation

OUTLINE

- Saul Introduced (9:1-2)
- Lost Donkeys (9:3-10)
- Samuel prepared by God (9:11-17)
- Saul Meets Samuel (9:18-21)
- Honored before the people (9:22-24)

LESSON 13: THE SEARCH FOR A KING

SAUL INTRODUCED

1 SAMUEL 9:1-2

1 “There was a prominent man of Benjamin named Kish son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, son of a Benjaminite.

1 SAMUEL 9:1-2

² “He had a son named Saul, an impressive young man. There was no one more impressive among the Israelites than he. He stood a head taller than anyone else.”

COMPLEX FIGURE

- One of Scriptures most complicated characters
- Often remembered for his failures
- Scripture shows courage, humility, and leadership
- Gradual **RISE** and tragic decline

SAULS STORY – 3 ACTS

- Act 1 - Saul becomes king (9-14)
 - Chosen and Empowered by God
 - Military success and national unity

SAULS STORY – 3 ACTS

- Act 2 - Saul is Rejected (15-27)
 - Disobedience and spiritual decline
 - Jealousy and hostility toward David

SAULS STORY – 3 ACTS

- Act 3 - Saul is Doomed (28-31)
 - Fear, desperation, & Collapse
 - Story ends in defeat and death

PARALLEL SCENES

- Saul meets Samuel → Anointed
 - Chapters 9-10
- Saul meets Samuel → Condemned
 - Chapter 15
- Saul meets Samuel → Doomed
 - Chapter 28

KISH & SAUL INTRODUCED

- Saul's father Kish—"Man of standing"
- Influential and WEALTHY family
- Tribe of Benjamin – Smallest tribe
- Israel's first king came from humble tribal origins

MEANING OF SAUL'S NAME

- Saul = “ASKED for”
- Israel had asked for a king
- Saul represents the people's **REQUEST**
- God gave them the kind of king they wanted

SAUL'S APPEARANCE

- “Impressive young man”
- Handsom – **PHYSICALLY** striking
- Taller than everyone else
- Looked like the king the people wanted

THEOLOGICAL TENSION

- Was Saul truly the “best” man?
- Merely the “best-looking” man?
- Chapter raises these questions

SAMUEL?

- Saul's height & appearance impresses Israel
- God to Samuel (16:7) – “Do not consider his appearance or height.”
- Saul **LOOKED** like a king – David chosen for his heart

LESSON 13:
THE SEARCH FOR A KING

**GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN ORDINARY
PATHS**

1 SAMUEL 9:3-5

³ “One day the donkeys of Saul’s father Kish wandered off. Kish said to his son Saul, ‘Take one of the servants with you and go look for the donkeys.’”

1 SAMUEL 9:3-5

4 “Saul and his servant went through the hill country of Ephraim and then through the region of Shalishah, but they didn’t find them. They went through the region of Shaalim – nothing.

1 SAMUEL 9:3-5

4c “Then they went through the Benjaminite region but still didn’t find them.

1 SAMUEL 9:3-5

5 “When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to the servant who was with him, ‘Come on, let’s go back, or my father will stop worrying about the donkeys and start worrying about us.’”

LOST DONKEYS– DIVINE DIRECTION

- Saul sent searching for lost donkeys
- Travel through Benjamin & Ephraim
- Search seemed **RANDOM** & unsuccessful
- Saul want to give up and return home

LOST DONKEYS– DIVINE DIRECTION

- God is using ordinary interruptions to achieve His will
- “Accidents” are often providence

GOD USES SMALL THINGS

- God used wondering donkeys to guide Israel's future king
- Regular daily events become part of God's larger plan
- God's sovereignty operates through **NORMAL** life

R.C. SPROUL

“There are no maverick molecules if God is sovereign.”

LESSON 13:
THE SEARCH FOR A KING

SAUL AND THE SERVANT

1 SAMUEL 9:6-10

⁶ “ ‘Look,’ the servant said, ‘there’s a man of God in this city who is highly respected; everything he says is sure to come true. Let’s go there now. Maybe he’ll tell us which way we should go.’”

1 SAMUEL 9:6-10

7“ ‘Suppose we do go,’ Saul said to his servant, ‘what do we take the man? The food from our packs is gone, and there’s no gift to take to the man of God. What do we have?’”

1 SAMUEL 9:6-10

⁸ “The servant answered Saul, ‘Here, I have a little silver. I’ll give it to the man of God, and he will tell us which way we should go.’”

1 SAMUEL 9:6-10

9 “Formerly in Israel, a man who was going to inquire of God would say, ‘Come, let’s go to the seer,’ for the prophet of today was formerly called the seer.

1 SAMUEL 9:6-10

10 “ ‘Good,’ Saul replied to his servant. ‘Come on, let’s go.’ So they went to the city where the man of God was.”

SAUL AND THE SERVANT

- Saul is ready to give up the search
- Servant suggest we go to “man of God”
- Servant more spiritually perceptive & persistent than Saul
- Saul’s concern: We have no GIFT

SAUL AND THE SERVANT

- Early hints reveal weaknesses in Saul's leadership instinct
- Saul **REACTS** instead of leading decisively
- Servant is pushing the action forward

SAMUEL THE “MAN OF GOD”

- Samuel called “Man of God” before named (“Seer” and “Prophet”)
- Prophet: God’s spokesman
- Seer: One who sees with spiritual vision

PROPHETIC TITLES

- Man of God → Character
- Seer → Spiritual vision
- Prophet → Divine spokesman
- Prophet speaks God's **TRUTH** not personal opinion
- Divine calling not a chosen career

ALISTAIR BEGG

“The preacher’s task is not to give people what they want to hear, but what God has said.”

SPIRITUAL VISION

- A “seer” sees beyond the obvious
- Samuel understood the divine dimension behind events
- Saul was looking for lost donkeys
- Samuel saw God’s **KINGDOM** plan unfolding

SPIRITUAL VISION

- In spiritual **MATURITY** we learn to see life through God's perspective
- Faith recognizes God's hand in even the most mundane moments.

LESSON 13: THE SEARCH FOR A KING

THE HIGH PLACE

1 SAMUEL 9:11-14

¹¹ “As they were climbing the hill to the city, they found some young women coming out to draw water and asked, ‘Is the seer here?’

1 SAMUEL 9:11-14

¹² “The women answered, ‘Yes, he is ahead of you. Hurry, he just now entered the city, because there’s a sacrifice for the people at the high place today.’”

1 SAMUEL 9:11-14

¹³ “‘As soon as you enter the city, you will find him before he goes to the high place to eat. The people won’t eat until he comes because he must bless the sacrifice; after that, the guests can eat. Go up immediately – you can find him now.’

1 SAMUEL 9:11-14

¹⁴ “So they went up toward the city. Saul and his servant were entering the city when they saw Samuel coming toward them on his way to the high place.”

THE HIGH PLACE

- Samuel headed to the “high place” for **SACRIFICE**.
- High places often became centers for idolatry
- Some still used high places to worship the LORD

THE HIGH PLACE

- Spiritual instability during transition period
- Lacked centralized worship after fall of Shiloh
- Jerusalem become “high place.” You go “up” to Jerusalem

URGENCY OF PROVIDENCE

- Saul reached Samuel at the right moment.
- “Hurry,” Samuel, “just arrived.”
- God’s **TIMING** is always right
- Every detail of the story arranged perfectly

URGENCY OF PROVIDENCE

- Here: Saul WAITS and succeeds
- Chapter 13: Saul refuses to wait and will fall
- Impatience with God's timing can become a doorway to spiritual failure

ADRAIN ROGERS

“Waiting time is never wasted time when God is directing the path.”

LESSON 13:
THE SEARCH FOR A KING

GOD'S INITIATIVE IN KINGSHIP
1 SAMUEL 9:15-24

1 SAMUEL 9:15-17

¹⁵ “Now the day before Saul’s arrival,
the Lord had informed Samuel,

1 SAMUEL 9:15-17

¹⁶ “ ‘At this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over my people Israel. He will save them from the Philistines because I have seen the affliction of my people, for their cry has come to me.’

1 SAMUEL 9:15-17

¹⁷ “When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, ‘Here is the man I told you about; he will govern my people.’”

GOD'S INITIATIVE

- Before Saul **ARRIVED** – God already spoke to Samuel
- God initiated Saul's selection as king
- Saul's rise was not by accident

GOD'S INITIATIVE

- Israel's request for a king = sinful
- God remained sovereign
- God's sovereignty works even through human rebellion/failure
- God granted the request but **CONTROLLED** the outcome

MEANING OF ANOINTING

- Samuel commanded to “anooint” Saul
- “Messiah” come from word “anoointed one”
- Called “leader” before functioning as king

MEANING OF ANOINTING

- Anointing symbolized God's calling and empowerment
- Biblical LEADERSHIP was never only political

ECHOES OF EXODUS

- God: “I have seen the affliction of my people”
- Israel’s cry has reached God
- Intentionally echoes the EXODUS deliverance

ECHOES OF EXODUS

- God remains compassionate even with the spiritually misguided

“THIS IS THE MAN”

- God identifies Saul to Samuel
- Parallels David's introduction
- Ultimately points to CHRIST (John the Baptist)

LESSON 13:
THE SEARCH FOR A KING

SAMUEL KNOWS SAUL'S HEART

1 SAMUEL 9:18-20

¹⁸ “Saul approached Samuel in the city gate and asked, ‘Would you please tell me where the seer’s house is?’

1 SAMUEL 9:18-20

¹⁹ “ ‘I am the seer,’ Samuel answered. ‘Go up ahead of me to the high place and eat with me today. When I send you off in the morning, I’ll tell you everything that’s in your heart.’”

1 SAMUEL 9:18-20

²⁰ “ ‘As for the donkeys that wandered away from you three days ago, don’t worry about them because they’ve been found. And who does all Israel desire but you and all your father’s family?’”

KNOWING SAUL'S HEART

- Saul doesn't recognize Samuel
- Samuel immediately recognizes Saul
- Samuel reveals knowledge of the donkeys (verification)
- Demonstrates DIVINE revelation

KNOWING SAUL'S HEART

- God sees what man cannot
- Samuel see beyond the surface –
God revealed it
- God is never **LIMITED** by human
understanding or visibility

LESSON 13:
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SAUL'S EARLY HUMILITY

1 SAMUEL 9:21

21 “Saul responded, ‘Am I not a Benjaminite from the smallest of Israel’s tribes and isn’t my clan the least important of all the clans of the Benjaminite tribe? So why have you said something like this to me?’”

SAUL'S EARLY HUMILITY

- Humbly objects Samuel's words
- Benjamin was the smallest tribe
- Saul – my FAMILY is insignificant
- Humility before pride corrupts him
- Strong beginning ≠ strong endings
- Not how we start, but how we finish

LESSON 13:
THE SEARCH FOR A KING

HONORED AT THE TABLE

1 SAMUEL 9:22-24

²² “Samuel took Saul and his servant, brought them to the banquet hall, and gave them a place at the head of the thirty or so men who had been invited.

1 SAMUEL 9:22-24

²³ “Then Samuel said to the cook,
‘Get the portion of meat that I gave
you and told you to set aside.’

1 SAMUEL 9:22-24

²⁴ “The cook picked up the thigh and what was attached to it and set it before Saul.

1 SAMUEL 9:22-24

24c “Then Samuel said, ‘Notice that the reserved piece is set before you. Eat it because it was saved for you for this solemn event at the time I said, ‘I’ve invited the people.’” So Saul ate with Samuel that day.”

HONORED AT THE TABLE

- Saul seated at the HEAD of the table
- Receives the reserved portion of meat
- Treated as guest of honor
- Samuel publicly sets Saul apart
- Reserved portion – Royal honor

A SET TIME

- The meal was an “appointed time”
- God divinely **ARRANGED** the moment
- Saul waits and receives honor

LESSON 13:
THE SEARCH FOR A KING

**CONVERSATION ON THE
ROOFTOP**

1 SAMUEL 9:25-27

25 “Afterward, they went down from the high place to the city, and Samuel spoke with Saul on the roof.

1 SAMUEL 9:25-27

²⁶ “They got up early, and just before dawn, Samuel called to Saul on the roof, ‘Get up, and I’ll send you on your way!’ Saul got up, and both he and Samuel went outside.

1 SAMUEL 9:25-27

²⁷ “As they were going down to the edge of the city, Samuel said to Saul, ‘Tell the servant to go on ahead of us, but you stay for a while, and I’ll reveal the word of God to you.’ So the servant went on.”

ROOFTOP CONVERSATION

- Samule, Saul, & Servant return to Ramah
- Rooftop conversation
- Quiet setting before public rise to leadership
- Rooftop for David is place of tempt...

ROOFTOP OF THE FUTURE

- Samuel rises early and send Saul's servant off
- Prepares to reveal "the WORD of God" privately to Saul
- Chapter ends with anticipation
- Public sees/knows nothing

LESSON 13: THE SEARCH FOR A KING

WHAT'S NEXT

CH. 10 – SAUL ANOINTED

- Samuel privately anoints Saul as first king
- Confirmation signs from God
- Spirit of God comes upon Saul
- Monarchy officially begins

CH. 10 – SAUL ANOINTED

- Saul chosen before the nation
- Some celebrate – others question
- Saul hides