

Title: “Searching for Donkeys...Securing a King”

Scripture:

1 Samuel 9:1-27

1 “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.

2 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.

3 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.”

4 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.

5 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.”

6 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.”

7 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?”

8 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.”

9 (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.)

10 And Saul said to his servant, “Well said; come, let us go.” So they went to the city where the man of God was.

11 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?”

12 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.

13 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.”

14 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.

15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel:

16 “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.”

17 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.”

18 Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, “Tell me where is the house of the seer?”

19 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.

20 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?”

21 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?”

22 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.

23 And Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, ‘Put it aside.’”

24 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.

25 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.

26 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.

27 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.””

Call: The Grass Withers and the Flower Fades

Response: But the Word of the Lord Endures
Forever!

Pastoral Prayer

I have titled my message this afternoon “Searching for Donkeys...Securing a King!”

Chapter 9 of 1st Samuel at first glance appears to be just a straight forward historical account of the meeting of Samuel the Prophet with Saul the selected Prince...

I think most Bible students find this chapter filled with odd details that seem insignificant to the overall purpose of what the author specifically desires to tell us...

After-all, isn't the purpose of **chapter 9** to reveal to us that God has chosen a King, just as he promised He would back in the book of **Deuteronomy 17:15** which says...

“You may indeed set a King over you whom the Lord your God will choose.”

So, you would think that all we need to know is the name of the man chosen by God and a few details of His being presented before the people by Samuel as the King they so desired!

But we are given so much details that, at first glance, seem so inconsequential... details such as, -lost donkeys

- a search party of two
- various places where the donkeys were not
- empty sacks
- young women doing their daily chores
- details of a sacrifice in the city for a selected few
- a very odd encounter of a man with a Seer
- a specific portion of meat set aside for a guest
- a good night's rest on a roof
- the dismissal of a servant
- the promise of revelation

Most of us are familiar with the saying “the Devil is in the details” which means trouble lies in the specifics that could be easily missed...

But most people do not know that the saying “**the Devil is in the details**” actually morphed from the saying “**God is in the details**” and is attributed to a German Architect by the name of Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe

As an Architect, Van Der Rohe suggested that the beauty and the success of a design or a project depend on careful attention to even the smallest of elements...

There are many lessons...important and encouraging lessons that we can learn from this chapter if we take the time to look at the details!

God is the great Architect who has designed every detail of His created order, and it is His good pleasure that He has woven the scarlet thread of redemption for His glory and for His people in great detail that you and I would do well to see...

Well, you can see it clearly in **1st Samuel chapter 9...**

There are 4 things I want to call your attention to in this chapter this afternoon...

Let me give them to you up front...

I. **The Secret Hand of God in Providence (vs 1-14)** and here are the details...

- a search party for missing donkeys (vs 3)
- a sack that is empty (vs 7)
- a servant that has resources (vs 8)

II. **The Stubborn Love God has for His People (vs 15- 17)** and here are the details...

- God lovingly uncovers the ears of His people (vs 15)
- God lovingly defends His people (vs 16a)
- God lovingly looks upon His people (vs 16b)
- God lovingly listens to the cries of His people (Vs 16c)

III. The Selection God makes for a Prince (vs 18-25) and here are the details...

- Saul was from a wealthy family (vs 1)
- Saul was handsome (vs 2)
- Saul was tall (vs 2b)
- But!..... Saul had a “small tribe complex”

IV. The Sending by God a Restrainer and a Protector! (Vs 26-27) and here are the details...

- a King to Protect (vs 16)
- a King to Restrain (vs 17)
- a King who Fail's (Jeremiah 17:5)

After we look at “God who is in the Details” of this chapter, I think we will be able to conclude with some encouraging applications for all of us to enjoy!

So lets first look at...

I. The Secret Hand of God in Providence (vs 1-14)

So before we go verse by verse through this amazingly detailed chapter of God orchestrating the presentation of a King to His people, I just want you to be aware of How God works in the normal daily ho-hum of our lives!

Monotony and Routine are not obstacles for God to overcome, in fact they are the very glorious platforms from which God mostly does His Holy work!

But we look for the Demolition of Dagon Idols... we look for City Walls and Goliaths to fall and the Enemies in the field of battle to turn tail and run!

These are the kind of things that impress us...
These are the kind of things that make great sermons!

Don't talk about the nameless servant who changed the course of history with a right word spoken at the right time in the normal routine of their daily duty!

Well if that bores you, then you will be bored listening to this message!

But I have been praying for you to see the beauty and the successful design of God in the daily details of your everyday life as a result of our exposition of this great chapter!

If you think your life is insignificant, then get encouragement through the nameless servant and the nameless young women in this chapter...

If you think your daily life doesn't matter to God, then be glad your livelihood doesn't depend on herding donkeys!

More than anything, I want you to notice how our God works in small, seemingly insignificant ways to accomplish His great purposes... so let's go through the text verse by verse...

1 “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.

2 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.

Why are we given such detail concerning Saul?
Would it not be sufficient to just have his name and to simply know that God had chosen Him to be the King of Israel?

Well, God has chosen to include much more detail concerning Saul so we better glean all we can because we know that God does not waste words!

Every Word God speaks is a treasure for the listener so here are some things we can glean from these two verses...

First, we know that Saul's came from the tribe of Benjamin and that His father was a wealthy man...

We are introduced to Saul in **verse 2**.

The name "**Saul**" actually means "**Asked For**"...

Isn't that interesting! In **chapter 8** we read that the people rejected the Kingship of God and “**asked for**” a king of flesh and blood like the other nations had...

So **chapter 9** begins to tell us that the people are now getting what they “**asked for**”!!!

So Saul comes from a wealthy Family...

Verse 2 tells us that Saul is both handsome and very tall!

Why such detail? Well, I believe God is designing a contrast between the story of this first King, Saul... and the story of the next King whose name is David!

With Saul, all these attributes impress mere men! Even the prophet Samuel was impressed with Saul and had a difficult time when God rejected Saul...

Wealth, looks and stature are nothing but outside appearances to impress men but they never impress God!

If you have wealth and stature of any kind, I would advise you to leverage such things for the glory of God and the good of His people while it is currently in your possession to leverage!

Not long from now I will be preaching from **1st Samuel Chapter 16** where God firmly rejects Saul and chooses David to be King...

In Chapter 16:7 "...the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.""

Saul is made up of just the right outward stuff that would cause men to approve of God's selection of his kingship!

But do you think for a moment that God is concerned about what mere men think when it comes to His Divine and Righteous plan???

I believe God is designing a contrast between a man whose outward appearance looks kingly in the eyes of man... That's Saul!!!

...and the contrast is between Saul and a man whose inward character IS kingly in the eyes of God Himself...and that man will be David!

So the details in **chapter 9** concerning the appearance of Saul in his wealth, his looks and his stature is for the purpose of seeing the difference of how man sees things in the temporal and how God sees things in the eternal!

But the Idols of America make big of Wealth, Looks and Stature...don't they???

Idols such as UnHolywood, ESPN and other Sports entities as well as Social Media Influencers and the Porn industry all make big of Wealth, Looks and Stature...

But not God... and the people of God should not be moved by any of it as well!!!

But Be careful little flock! If the prophet Samuel could get caught up in this, what makes us think we can escape the temptation?

Even the Americanized Church is caught up in the same idolatry of elevating wealth, looks and stature...

It is almost like we are ashamed of the true essence of who Christ is...

So we dress Jesus up in the worldly robe of acceptable characteristics in our effort to make Him appealing to the masses!

Do you know the danger of doing this???

It's like having a daughter who is pure, virtuous and wholesome that is at the acceptable age to marry...

So you dress her up like a prostitute in the effort to make her appealing to the masses of eligible men and you parade her in public and on all the social media platforms you can to get her married!

Now I didn't come up with that analogy and I don't know the person who did, but I agree with it or else I would not have said it!

So how do we keep from making big of the wrong details when the wrong things are presented to us in this life???

My prescription is the same as what is sung in the old Hymn... “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things on earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His Glory and Grace!

Next we have the case of the missing Donkeys concerning the Secret Hand of God in Providence...

This is the livelihood of Kish and they went missing!

3 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."

4 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.

So these verses seem to simply describe the failure of Kish's Search Party! Saul and his nameless servant are either pitiful Donkey trackers OR the Lord's providence is at work and we get to read about it "after the fact."

And that's the problem, isn't it??? While we are going through the norm, we fail to see the reality of what God is doing...

It is only after the fact of the work of God in our personal routine do we realize that God was there, He was in it, and He even orchestrated it!

What did the men who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus say after Jesus came, spoke, opened their eyes and then departed in **Luke 24:31-32**

“And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?””

These men were just walking a path they had routinely walked many times before and they met up with someone they thought to be a stranger and entered into a normal conversation...

But God was in their details and they didn't even realize it until after Jesus left them!

So God uses these missing stubborn Donkeys to cause Saul and his servant to eventually end up in the land of Zuph...

5 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.”

Now you will notice that **verse 5** tells us that they ended up in the land of Zuph where Saul was at the point of giving up...

In fact Saul actually said he thought his father would be more concerned about their whereabouts than the donkeys because it had already been three days...

But why stop in Zuph??? Well, God is in the details...

Go back to **1st Samuel chapter 1 and the first verse...**

The Bible tells us “**There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite.**”

We see that Zuph is the land of Samuel's Great, Great, Great Grandfather and it is obvious that Samuel visited this familiar place on his normal circuit....

We know from reading **1st Samuel 7:16** that Samuel went on a circuit in various cities on a yearly basis...

Zuph was a place where the path of Samuel and the Path of Saul would cross...

It appears that Samuel's visit to Zuph is common knowledge because of what is said in **verse 6** by Saul's unnamed servant...

6 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."

Evidently both men knew or at least Saul's servant knew of the circuit that Samuel traveled and possibly the time in which Samuel would normally be in Zuph...

Now look at **verses 7-10**...

7 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?"

8 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."

9 (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.)

10 And Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was.

So there was some discussion about seeking out the Man of God who was actually called a "Seer" In that time...

The Bible uses the word "Seer" interchangeably with the word Prophet...

For example, Samuel, Gath and Nathan are also described as "Seerers" in scripture meaning that they saw visions and were responsible for relaying God's messages to His people for the purpose of Guidance, warnings and even telling of future events...

It was the custom of the people to inquire even specific things from seerers and they would often bring a gift in honor of the time the seerer would give them...

So Saul and His servant considers this nothing more than a coincidence of timing and opportunity to speak to the prophet about their lost Donkeys...

Little did they know that God is in the details orchestrating an event that is crucial to the future of the people of Israel....

That event is the meeting of Samuel with The Son of Kish, Saul!

Now look at verse 11...

11 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?"

12 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.

13 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.”

So God simply uses these young women to hurry Saul and his servant along, giving them specific details of how and where to locate Samuel...

Notice that we are given more details about the sacrifice... it was offered on an elevated hill, mountain or platform...there was a meal or a feast that followed the offering of the sacrifice...and only specific people were invited to participate in the meal...

All this detail is given to Saul and his servant and verse 14 simply says...

14 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.

So we have seen the Secret Hand of God Providentially working through the details of normal life, yet bringing to fruition His perfect designed plan concerning Saul becoming King of Israel...

Now, to be sure, we will see more of what God is doing in the details of the rest of the chapter in order to accomplish His divine Will and His divine Purposes...

But now let's look at what the next 3 verses tell us about...

II. The Steadfast Love God has for His People (vs 15-17) and here are the details...

-God lovingly uncovers the ears of His people...

If most of us were treated like Israel treated God and His Prophet Samuel, we would have vanished off the scene...

In the church today, any little excuse will be sufficient to send any number of us out the door never again to attend a gathering of the Saints again in a place called "Church"...

So and So didn't speak to me, or The Pastor looked at me when he was preaching about sin!

Out the door they go for any reason!

Israel insulted God and His Prophet in **chapter 8** by rejecting them!

They said “we don’t want you God or Your Prophet!”
We want a King!

Have you thought about what these people were actually saying???

Especially after Samuel told them How a Fleshly King would treat them!?!?!?

They were saying... “We don’t want the freedom you give us God! We want Bondage!”

You see, with God as King, Judges were given to them by God to Guide the people concerning what was good, pure, honorable and right...

Such guidance set the people free to live a Godly and a peaceful life...

And if an enemy came, God as their King orchestrated the victory time and time again by defeating places like Jericho with silence, a shout and falling walls!

Or God would send the enemy into confusion and they would even kill each other!

The point is that God, as their King orchestrated that which was good and beneficial to every man...

But they rejected that for a Dynasty of slavery in the likeness of what they had in Egypt!

All because they wanted to be like other nations!

How crazy is that?

So in this insanity, they cried out “God, We don’t want you and your Prophet” we want a fleshly King!

You would think that God would divorce his people because of such insult and betrayal...

But In the next three verses instead of divorce, we actually see the steadfast (and some might dare to say the Stubborn) love of God for his people on display!

God does not leave them... he does not throw up His hands to walk away but instead...He is still

caring for them, even in the midst of their foolishly rejecting Him!

So what are some of the ways God showed them His steadfast love???

Well first, as we have already seen, God works out his perfect plan even in the ordinary routines of their lives...

That is what the **first 14 verses of 1st Samuel chapter 9** clearly established...

We can see this in all of **chapter 9** and even into **chapter 10** as well...

There is this hidden Hand of God working through the details of the irritation of life on the farm...gotta find Donkeys, Gotta go up and down Hills and valleys, the running out of provisions...

Yet Right in the middle of such things is the Loving hand of God bringing these men into direct contact with the Prophet Samuel...

And as we said before, this crossing of paths is significant! Not only is it pivotal in the history of Israel, it also reveals God's love for His people by guiding and directing them according to His will even though they were as stubborn as Kish's missing Donkeys!

Look what it says in verse 15...

15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel:

The word "revealed" comes from the Hebrew word "Gaw-Law" (gala) which means to uncover!

So God lovingly begins to uncover His secret plan to His people...

Before **verse 15** took place, everything was done secretly by God...but now God begins to reveal or to uncover to Samuel all that He plans to do...

Look at **verse 16**...

16 "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.”

Do you realize that by the time God reveals or uncovers his plan to Samuel, the donkeys have been missing for a couple of days... Saul and his servant are already at least two days into their search and Samuel is making ready for the details of the sacrifice in Zuph???

So God lovingly uncovers the ears of Samuel and lovingly speaks His word concerning the part Samuel would play in the anointing of the King God had chosen...

But notice a few other revelations concerning the Love of God in the text...

If you notice in the text, in **verses 16 and 17** God says “**My People**” 4 times...

God uses these two words as a term of endearment as he calls the people...His OWN!

If you have repented and believed the Gospel, trusting in Christ alone for salvation... You belong to Christ...

One day he will say of you “Father oh Father, This one’s with me!” Matthew 25:34

In our text in 1st Samuel 9...

God says that He will use this King to save His people from their arch enemy known as the Philistines and he further reveals that He has heard his people cry out to Him!

Now I think it is important to point out the fact that God is love and also that God is Just!

Too many times the Americanized Church has presented God as all loving but never talk about Him being Just, Righteous and Holy!

I want us to see that in **Chapter 9** God is definitely loving to His people by uncovering how He is orchestrating the Dynasty they desired...

So in this chapter God is lovingly revealing how he is bringing them a King!

But if you remember back in **chapter 8** God told Israel these words in **verse 18** after he granted their desire for a fleshly King...

God said **“In that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”**

But in **chapter 9:16**, we are told that that day has not come yet...

Oh there is a day coming where Israel will cry out to God AFTER they have a King and God will bring them Justice in that He will not hear their cry because they rejected their God in favor of a Fleshly King!

But this is not that day!!!! This day is a day of revealing and uncovering His steadfast love for His people!

So here is what we see concerning the steadfast love of God in the text...

We see in **verse 16** that God will use the King to defend His people as an act of His love toward them...

And we know from the text that the people of God can take heart that God sees them and hears them...

There is one more encouraging word concerning the revelation or the uncovering of the steadfast love of God in the text...

Look at **verse 17**...

17 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.”

It is clear that a King does indeed restrain the people and even such restraining by an earthly king is a display of God’s love...

But it also needs to be clear that even though Israel rejected God as their King, God’s providence could never be paralyzed by their rejection!

God will show His people His Love and God always deals with people justly!

So we have seen...

I. The Hidden Hand of God in His Providence

II. The Steadfast Love of God for His People

Now let us look at...

III.). The specific selection God makes for a Prince...

Look with me at **verses 18-25...**

We already know a few things about Saul from the first two verses of our chapter...

We know that...

- Saul was from a wealthy family (vs 1)

- Saul was handsome (vs 2)

- Saul was tall (vs 2b)

Saul, in any event, in any day and at any time imaginable, Saul would make the team... He would be chosen first...He would make Captain, He would be King in the Homecoming court today!

But! How can you reconcile this fact with Saul's attitude about himself that we see in the text???

18 Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, “Tell me where is the house of the seer?”

This has to be humorous as Saul approaches Samuel and ask where is the Seer...

19 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.

Of course Samuel will tell Saul all that is on his mind for that is what seers do!

And this next verse is almost like Samuel is saying “let me prove I am the Seer”...

20 As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found.

Now notice what Samuel says to Saul in this next portion of **verse 20** and then take note of how Saul responds in **verse 21**...

Samuel says **“And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father’s house?”**

21 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?”

Saul knew he was Big, Tall and Handsome...but he struggled with a small tribe complex...

Saul knew that he came from a Tribe that had a dark side that you can read about in the book of Judges in chapters 19 thru 21...

A civil war resulted because the Tribe of Benjamin would not give up the men who had raped and murdered a Levite's concubine so all the other tribes almost annihilate the tribe of Benjamin...

This was during the days in which “every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

Such depravity among the tribe of Benjamin only lead to their almost complete and total destruction and Saul knew his history well and this caused him to question what Samuel was actually saying...

Samuel was saying that Saul was who all of Israel desired and this blew Saul's mind!

The next thing Saul knows is that He is an honored Guest among 30 other people with the Priestly portion of the main course set before him and his servant to feast upon and then he is given a room with a view and a bed to rest in...

Isn't this what is said in verses 22-25???

22 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.

23 And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, 'Put it aside.'"

24 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.

25 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.

I believe it is quite clear that the theme of **chapter 9** is that God has chosen a Prince to become the King and that he will save the people of God from their enemies...

This salvation from their enemies is spoken of in **chapter 9** and continues into **chapter 10**...

In these last two verses, we see the calling up and the sending off of Saul by the Word of God to be anointed King of Israel just as they “Asked For”...

26 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.

27 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.

So lastly we see...

IV. The Sending by God a Restrainer and a Protector

So we know that...

-Saul will be the King who will protect the People of God...

-Saul will also be the King who Restrains the People of God...

But Spoiler Alert! Saul will be the King who fails the people of God! Sadly, we are only a few chapters away from that...

The people wanted a King to trust in for their salvation, provision and for their protection...

A king they could boast of!

Listen carefully to the warning of scripture concerning trusting in Men or in anything else other than the Lord!

Psalm 118:8 “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.”

Jeremiah 17:5

“Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord.”

Psalms 20:

**1 “May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!**

**2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and
give you support from Zion!**

**3 May he remember all your offerings and regard
with favor your burnt sacrifices! Selah**

**4 May he grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill
all your plans!**

**5 May we shout for joy over your salvation, and
in the name of our God set up our banners! May
the Lord fulfill all your petitions!**

**6 Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven with the
saving might of his right hand.**

**7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but
we trust in the name of the Lord our God.**

**8 They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand
upright.**

9 O Lord, save the king! May he answer us when we call.”

Saul will fail the people, but there is a King who will never fail us!

And this never-failing King even works His divine purposes out through some of the most mundane and routine activities of our everyday lives...

So don't you dare say that you are insignificant and what you do in this life is of no difference...if you have repented and have believed the Gospel every moment of every day matters for all eternity!

According to **Philippians 1:6** a true servant of our our blessed King remains a spiritual construction sight even if you cannot see all the secret details of His providence...

Take heart true believer! God will complete the work He began in you through Christ His Son and by the power of His Spirit abiding in you!

And the wonder of it all is that he does it in the midst of your everyday routine! So give Him Glory in it!

THE BOOK OF
1 SAMUEL

CHAPTER 9

*SEARCHING FOR DONKEYS
SECURING A KING*



INTRODUCTION

- God is calling a king for His people
- Remember Deuteronomy 17:15
- “God is in the details” –*Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe*

THE SECRET HAND OF GOD IN PROVIDENCE (V. 1-14)

- A search party for missing donkeys (v. 3)
- A sack that is empty (v. 7)
- A servant that has resources (v. 8)

THE STUBBORN LOVE GOD HAS FOR HIS PEOPLE (V. 15- 17)

- God lovingly
 - uncovers the ears of His people (v. 15)
 - defends His people (v. 16a)
 - looks upon His people (v. 16b)
 - listens to the cries of His people (v. 16c)

THE SELECTION GOD MAKES FOR A PRINCE (V. 18-25)

- Saul was/had
 - from a wealthy family (v. 1)
 - handsome (v. 2)
 - tall (v. 2b)
 - a “small tribe complex”

THE SENDING BY GOD A RESTRAINER AND A PROTECTOR! (V.26-27)

- a King to Protect (v. 16)
- a King to Restrain (v. 17)
- a King who Fails (Jeremiah 17:5)
- But there is a King we can take Refuge in! (Psalm 118:8)

THE SECRET HAND OF GOD IN PROVIDENCE (V. 1-14)

- God works in the normal, daily things of our lives
- Saul means “asked for”
- He is wealthy, handsome, & tall – what man would look for in a king
- Sets up a contrast for Saul v. David (1 Samuel 16:7)

THE SECRET HAND OF GOD IN PROVIDENCE (V. 1-14)

- A search party for missing donkeys (v. 3)
 - Providential in the daily
 - NT example: Luke 24:31-32
- A sack that is empty (v. 7) & a servant that has resources (v. 8)
 - “Seer” = “Prophet”

THE STEADFAST LOVE GOD HAS FOR HIS PEOPLE (V. 15- 17)

- Even after His people rejected Him, God lovingly:
 - uncovers (revealed) the ears of **His** people (v. 15)
 - defends **His** people (v. 16a)
 - looks upon **His** people (v. 16b)
 - listens to the cries of **His** people (v. 16c)

THE SELECTION GOD MAKES FOR A PRINCE (V. 18-25)

- Saul was/had
 - from a wealthy family (v. 1)
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THE SENDING BY GOD A RESTRAINER AND A PROTECTOR! (V.26-27)

- a king to protect (v. 16)
- a king to restrain (v. 17)
- a king who fails (Jeremiah 17:5)
- but, there is a King we can take refuge in (Psalm 118:8, Jeremiah 17:5, Psalm 20, Philippians 1:6)