

Saul: A Character Study (part 1)

Why did God choose Saul to be a leader?

¿Por qué Dios eligió a Saulo como líder?

1. Saul _____ his father.

Saúl _____ a su padre.

1 Samuel 9:3

1 Samuel 9:5

Luke 16:10 (Lucas 16:10)

2. Saul _____ the man of God.

Saúl _____ al hombre de Dios.

1 Samuel 9:7

1 Samuel 9:27

Galatians 6:6 (Gálatas 6:6)

1 Timothy 5:17 (1 Timoteo 5:17)

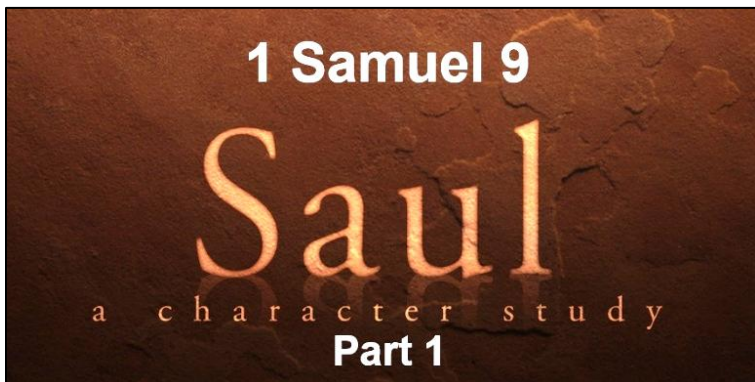
3. Saul had a _____ attitude.

Saúl tenía una actitud _____.

1 Samuel 9:21

1 Samuel 15:17

1 Peter 5:5-6 (1 Pedro 5:5-6)



Discussion Questions and Notes

Week 10: October 18-25

Scripture: 1 Samuel 9

We have been reading the book of 1 Samuel chapter by chapter. We stood at Mizpah in chapter 7 and watched God deliver His people from the Philistines. We stood at Ramah in chapter 8 and heard Israel demand a human king like the other nations. We saw how the people were not rejecting Samuel; they were rejecting God as their King.

And now we come to chapter 9, when God gives His people exactly what they asked for. Not with reluctance and not by accident — God Himself chooses the first king of Israel. God speaks to Samuel in verse 16 and says, “About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him leader over my people Israel.”

But why Saul? Of all the people in Israel, why this one? And what lessons can we learn from this chapter and apply to our lives today?

Read 1 Samuel 9

1. How is Kish described in verse 1?
2. What was unique about Saul’s physical appearance? (9:2)
3. What did Kish tell Saul to do in verse 3?
4. How many places did Saul and his servant go to in verse 4?

James Smith observes,

Saul’s immediate obedience to his father’s directive is an important prerequisite for his selection as king. Disobedient sons have been rejected in previous chapters by both God (in the case of Eli’s sons) and man (in the case of Samuel’s sons). (128)

5. Why did Saul want to go home without the donkeys? (9:5)

Smith notes,

The journey occupied parts of three days (v. 20). Saul became concerned that his father might be worrying about his well-being. When he and his servant came to the land of Zuph, Saul suggested that they return home. Saul's tender concern for his father's feelings is a favorable indication of his character and a refreshing contrast to the sons of Eli and Samuel. (Smith, 129)

6. Why did the servant want to go to one more town? (9:6)

John Woodhouse writes,

The ESV suggests that he might have been hoping for advice about where to find the donkeys. However, a more literal translation is, "Perhaps he can tell us our way on which we have walked." It is as though this young man sensed that their journey had a significance that had little to do with lost donkeys but which they may learn from the man of God in the nearby city. (Woodhouse, 157-158)

7. What did the servant have to give to the man of God? (9:7-9)

Smith comments,

Rather than the usual wording for "I have," the servant said: "Behold, there is found in my hand..." The language suggests that the servant did not himself know that he had on his person the silver until that very moment. Its presence, though a mystery to the servant, is another indication of Providence at work in this narrative. (130)

8. Who gave Saul and the servant directions to help them find the man of God? (9:11-12)

9. How did God "send" Saul to Samuel? (9:15-16)

Woodhouse notes,

This brief flashback to the day before Saul and his servant had arrived at Ramah changes everything! We

now see that the curiously ordinary sequence of events, beginning with the lost donkeys and the failed search for them, had been much more than it seemed. The Lord was “sending” Saul to Samuel! The remarkable coincidence of the timing of their arrival at Ramah now makes sense. It was God’s doing. (Woodhouse, 161)

10. Why did God tell Saul to anoint Saul? (9:16-17)
11. What did Samuel say to Saul in verse 20?
12. How did Saul respond to Samuel’s prediction? (9:21)
13. How did Samuel honor Saul at the feast? (9:22-24)
14. Why did Samuel want the servant to go on ahead of him and Saul? (9:27)
15. What are some characteristics that you like to see in our civil leaders?
16. What good characteristics did Saul demonstrate in this chapter?
17. Why do you think God used three donkeys, a servant, and some girls to bring Saul to Samuel?
18. Why do you think God appointed Saul to be the king of Israel when He knew that Saul would eventually fail?
19. How will you remain faithful in the responsibilities God has entrusted to you?
20. How will you seek God’s will for your life this week?

Sources cited:

Smith, James. *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000.
Woodhouse, John. *1 Samuel: Looking for a Leader*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.