

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

The Israelites wanted a king –

That was their plea to Samuel in chapter eight.

They wanted someone to rule over them.

However, they had someone to rule over them already – and that God.

Israel was supposed to be a theocracy – governed by God.

That is what Israel means.

However, they wanted a human king.

They wanted to be just like all the other nations.

All the other nations had a human king that was leading them into battle.

All the other nations had a human king that was ruling over them.

And I made the point last week – that what the Israelites really wanted was an image of a king.

Their desire for a king was really the desire for someone who looked like what they thought a king should look like.

That is really what they wanted.

So here in chapter nine, God is going to give them what they want – you want a king – I will give you a king – and the

person I will give you as your king, will the qualifications that you desire in a king.

So, the Israelites are going to get their image of a king.

**[1Sa 9:1-27 NKJV] 1 There was a man of Benjamin whose name [was] Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.**

In verse 1, we are introduced to Kish

Now, Kish is the father of Saul – the one that God is going to give Israel as their first human king.

We also see here in verse one an established genealogy – that is a must for all kings.

There is an established pedigree.

And also we see that Kish was a person of influence. That is what is meant when it says that he was a mighty man of power – he was most likely wealthy – he most likely was a man of authority over the people.

**2 And he had a choice and handsome son whose name [was] Saul. [There was] not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward [he was] taller than any of the people.**

A better translation for the Hebrew word that is used here for choice is the word young.

So the son (Saul) was both young and handsome.

And we also find out his name mentioned here in verse two for the first time.

The name Saul means, asked of God - Israel asked for a king and Saul was indeed the one “asked of God.”

The scriptures also point out that Saul was so handsome - that no other man in Israel could be considered more handsome than he was and he was also taller than anyone else in Israel.

Clearly Saul was very impressive to look upon.

And that is what the Israelites wanted.

They wanted to be able to brag to the other nations and say, look at our king – look at how handsome he is and what a prominent figure he is.

They wanted the nations around them to be envious of them for having such a handsome and tall king.

Now, these characteristics will by no means determine how good a ruler the king may be – but it will certainly make the people feel good.

Before we laugh at the Israelites – we must remember that for the most part, that is how some of us pick candidates for office today.

Do they look the part???

However, these characteristics are not the ones that God uses.

Turn with me to 1 Sam 16

In a couple of weeks, we will see that God rejects Saul as king – because Saul chooses to be disobedient to the commandments of God.

So the Lord tells Samuel to go invite Jesse and out of his sons, the Lord was going to anoint a new king.

The Lord was going to select the new king out of Jesse's sons and He would let Samuel know who to anoint.

So one by one, Samuel goes to each son and the Lord said – Nope, not that one.

Seven sons were rejected that day until Samuel asks Jesse if he had any other sons and there was – David. He was the runt – he was the keeper of sheep – a job that often given to the women.

And when they bring David in, the Lord says to Samuel – this is the one, anoint him.

Look at verse 7,

This is what the Lord tells Samuel as he goes from son to son.

**[1Sa 16:7 NKJV] 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For [the LORD does] not [see] as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."**

**And that is the biggest difference between Saul and David.**

**3 Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. And Kish said to his son Saul, "Please take one of the servants with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." 4 So he passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha, but they did not find [them]. Then they passed through the land of**



**Shaalim, and [they were] not [there]. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find [them].**

So some of the family's donkeys have gotten out and Kish sends Saul to go find them.

The significance of these lost donkeys is that they are the ones that are going to lead Saul to Samuel.

We see God in His sovereignty use these circumstances to get His will done.

A few weeks ago we saw God guide the milk cows as they returned the Ark of the Covenant back to the Israelites.

The donkeys could have gone anywhere, but they went exactly where God wanted them to go. They submitted themselves to what God wanted.

**5 When they had come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who [was] with him, "Come, let us return, lest my father cease [caring] about the donkeys and become worried about us." 6 And he said to him, "Look now, [there is] in this city a man of God, and [he is] an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass. So let us go there; perhaps he can show us the way that we should go." 7 Then Saul said to his servant, "But look, [if] we go, what shall we bring the man? For the bread in our vessels is all gone, and [there is] no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?"**

**8 And the servant answered Saul again and said, "Look, I have here at hand one-fourth of a shekel of silver. I will give [that] to the man of God, to tell us our way."**

So as they are looking for these donkeys from town to town, Saul wants to give up and go home. He doesn't want his dad to worry about their wellbeing.

However, notice that it is the servant that comes up with all the good ideas.

It is the servant that realizes that they are in a city where this man of God resides.

By the way, this man of God is no other than Samuel.

It is the servant that didn't forget his wallet with all his credit cards when they left home. It was Saul.

Now, they needed a small gift – not because Samuel would demand one but because it was customary that when one went to see the seer that they would bring a small gift.

**Samuel was not a fortune teller –**

**9 (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he spoke thus: "Come, let us go to the seer"; for [he who is] now [called] a prophet was formerly called a seer.)**

The author of 1 Samuel is providing a brief history lesson for us regarding the title seer and prophets.

They are the same thing.

It could be that during the time that 1 Samuel was written, the word prophet was more common than the word seer

when describing someone who gave inspired advice from God.

**10 Then 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 some young women going out to draw water, and said to them, "Is the seer here?" 12 And they answered them and said, "Yes, there he is, just ahead of you. Hurry now; for today he came to this city, because there is a sacrifice of the people today on the high place.**

So Saul and his servant are looking for the man of God and they wound up asking directions from these young women that were drawing water.

Throughout scripture we see that the drawing of water was one of those tasks that were assigned to women.

And these women tell Saul that it just so happens that Samuel is in that city that particular day.

Remember, at the end of chapter seven, the scriptures tell us that Samuel was on this traveling circuit as he judged Israel.

So again, we see God's plan as he brings all these circumstances together.

**13 "As soon as you come into the city, you will surely find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will**

**eat. Now therefore, go up, for about this time you will find him."**

Obviously Saul had no idea of what was about to occur.

Remember, he did not go with the intent of receiving any honor of any kind, let alone to be named king.

He didn't even go for the purpose of attending the sacrifice or the meal that is about to take place.

All Saul wants is for help from the seer in determining where his father's donkeys are.

**14 So they went up to the city. As they were coming into the city, there was Samuel, coming out toward them on his way up to the high place. 15 Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying, 16**

**"Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me."**

God had foreseen and most likely arranged this meeting between Samuel and Saul.

And the Lord told Samuel 24 hours earlier that he was going to cross paths with Saul that day and at that precise hour.

And the reason that they were going to cross paths was so that Samuel can anoint Saul as Israel's first king – for the purpose of delivering them from the Philistines, because God heard the cries of His people.



And when we read what's happening here, it is very similar to another calling.

Turn with me to the book of Exodus.

**[Exo 3:7-10 NKJV] 7 And 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. 8 "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. 9 "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. 10 "Come now, therefore, and **I will send you** (speaking about Moses) to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

17 So when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, "There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign over My people." 18 Then Saul **drew near to Samuel in the gate**, and said, "Please tell me, where [is] the seer's house?" 19 Samuel answered Saul and said, "I [am] the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and tomorrow I will let you go and will tell you all that [is] in your heart."

When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord informed him that this was the man that he was speaking about in the previous verses.

This was the one who was going to be king over His people.

This was the one that was going to deliver them from the Philistines.

Samuel knew this – but Saul had no idea of it.

Saul finally meets Samuel by the gate and yet he doesn't know at first that Samuel is the seer that he has been looking for.

When Samuel finally discloses that he is the seer, he invites Saul to proceed with him to the place of sacrifice where they will also eat together.

Samuel convinces Saul to come and eat with him today and that tomorrow – he would tell Saul what he wanted to know.

Again, Saul has no idea of what is about to happen, he just wants to find out where his father' donkeys are.

**20 "But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not be anxious about them, for they have been found. And on whom [is] all the desire of Israel? [Is it] not on you and on all your father's house?" 21 And Saul answered and said, "[Am] I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?"**

Samuel proceeds to give Saul one sign that he was speaking from God.

He tells Saul that his donkeys that had been missing for three days have been found.

And Samuel tells this to Saul without Saul ever mentioning to Samuel why he was there.

Not only did Samuel know why Saul was there, he knew that the solution to the problem had already occurred.

And the reason that Samuel tells this to Saul is for proof that he was indeed speaking from God.

Samuel also tells Saul that all the desires of Israel was upon Saul and his household – he didn't tell him that he was going to be king, he just lets him know that he and his household were going to be of great importance to the nation.

And we see Saul respond with humility.

I asked you to highlight where Saul mentions that he is from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe.

You see, in Judges 19-21, the tribe of Benjamin was almost entirely destroyed because of sin. Only 600 men were left in the entire tribe (Judges 20:47)

So what Saul is saying is how can something of such importance come out of an insignificant nation.

It is the same argument that Gideon makes in Judges 6

**[Jdg 6:14-16 NKJV] 14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" 15 So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan [is] the weakest in Manasseh, and I [am] the least in my father's house." 16 And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."**

Saul was humble at the beginning of his reign.

In fact we will see next week that he really wasn't seeking a position of prominence.

However, the problem with Saul is that he didn't remain humble.

He sought the accolades of the people and he was determined to maintain the favor of the people – and that was his downfall.

**22 Now Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall, and had them sit in the place of honor among those who were invited; there [were] about thirty persons. 23 And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion which I gave you, of which I said to you, 'Set it apart.' " 24 So the cook took up the thigh with its upper**

**part and set [it] before Saul. And [Samuel] said, "Here it is, what was kept back. [It] was set apart for you. Eat; for until this time it has been kept for you, since I said I invited the people." So Saul ate with Samuel that day.**

So Samuel brings Saul into this hall where he is the guest of honor.

It was done not just so that Saul would know that he was being given great honor, but also so that the people would know it too.

And that was the role that the 30 other guests played.

I asked you guys to make a note of the command that

Samuel gave the cook – to bring the part that was set aside.



This again was to confirm that he had been expecting Saul and had planned all along to give him such a great honor.

**25** When they had come down from the high place into the city, [Samuel] spoke with Saul on the top of the house. **26** They arose early; and it was about the dawning of the day that Samuel called to Saul on the top of the house, saying, "Get up, that I may send you on your way." And Saul arose, and both of them went outside, he and Samuel. **27** As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God."

After their meal, they spend the night at the residence where Samuel was staying and we see Samuel speaking to Saul.

He is most likely telling him how the Israelites want a king and how God has chosen him to be the first king of Israel.

He is most likely explaining to Saul the importance of giving his heart to the Lord.

Saul had the look, he had the physical stature – that is what the Israelites wanted - but his heart was in the wrong place.

Next week, we will see the beginning of Saul's reign as King of Israel.

Let's pray...