

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- Samuel finally ended the Philistine rule and enabled the Israelites to regain their former territories by commanding them to put away their foreign gods and serve the Lord only.
- Though Israel was formerly ruled by judges they rejected Samuel and demanded a king, making Samuel the last judge of Israel. They did not consider the role of judge, which God had given Israel, to be enough for them.
- While Israel would have a king “like all the nations,” God did not approve of them having a king in order to become like the nations.
- God gave Israel exactly what they asked for. Outside of a few exceptions, Israel’s kings were wicked and oppressive. Even the ideal king, David, had his moral failings. In many ways, the monarchy was a judgment upon Israel.

Saul Is Anointed King

- Saul is presented by the author of 1 Samuel from several different perspectives at the beginning of his story, drawing some parallels with **Samuel**.
 - ▶ First, the author introduces **naming puns** of both Samuel and Saul.
 - ◆ Hannah’s **etymology** of the name “Samuel” was because he had been “asked of Yahweh,” but the name Samuel does not mean precisely this (**1 Sam. 1:20**). The name is close enough to make a punning etymological connection, but distant enough to make us suspect that something more is afoot.
 - ◆ In chapter 9, a character is introduced whose name actually means “**asked**.” They received sha’ul after asking for a king, but they already had a sha’ul, one “asked for,” namely, Samuel.
 - ▶ Second, the author continues the **adoption** theme already present.
 - ◆ Eli had two defiantly sinful sons, **Hophni** and **Phinehas**, but the Lord raised up Samuel as Eli’s “adopted” son.
 - ◆ The problem of Eli and sons was repeated with Samuel and his sons, and just as Samuel was a replacement for Hophni and Phinehas, so Saul replaced **Joel** and **Abijah**. Samuel anointed Saul as his successor and son.
- Saul was from the tribe of **Benjamin (1 Sam. 9:1)**, hardly a commendation in the

later period of the judges (see: **Judg. 19-21**). Not only was Saul a Benjaminite, but was from the town of **Gibeah**, where the tragedy at the end of Judges takes place (**Judg. 19:13-15; 1 Sam. 10:26**).

- ▶ Despite being in Benjamin, Saul's father, **Kish**, was a "mighty man" or a "man of wealth." Kish apparently had been able to prosper in a desolate tribe (**1 Sam. 9:1**).
- ▶ Saul was a "**choice and handsome man**," head and shoulders taller than other Israelites (**1 Sam. 9:2**), who could fight Israel's battles.
- Saul is introduced into the story while searching for his father's lost donkeys (**1 Sam. 9:3**). Since "shepherd" was a common metaphorical description of a king in the ancient world, the fact that Saul could not keep track of a collection of large animals potentially foreshadows his future **failure as king**.
 - ▶ The donkeys may also be playing a symbolic role, since donkeys were the **beasts of kings** (**1 Kgs. 1:33-44; Zech. 9:9**). In searching for royal beasts, Saul was providentially led to Samuel, who anointed him to be one who rode donkeys.
- Saul and his servant went searching for the lost donkeys which took them on a thorough tour of the central hill country, before deciding to give up the fruitless search in the **land of Zuph** (**1 Sam. 9:4-5**).
 - ▶ However, Samuel happened to be in Zuph that day, and at the **urging** and **provision** of the servant, Saul went to meet Samuel (**1 Sam. 9:6-10**).
 - ▶ The search for the donkeys, the stopping at Zuph, and ultimately meeting Samuel was due to the **divine providence of God** (**1 Sam. 9:15-17**).
- Samuel already knew that the "prince" was coming and had invited thirty men to share a meal, at which Saul was guest of honor and given the **favored portion** (**1 Sam. 9:22-23**).
 - ▶ This "feast of the kingdom" celebrated the revelation of Israel's leader, and at the feast, Saul was given the **leg**, not merely a large portion but a **priestly** portion (**1 Sam. 9:24**).
 - ▶ Samuel was offering a **peace offering**, which included a meal (**1 Sam. 9:13**), and according to **Leviticus 7:33-34**, the leg of a peace offering belonged to the **priest** who assisted in the sacrifice.
- Giving Saul the thigh thus announced that the "prince" was receiving an office analogous to the **priest's**. Anointing with **oil** also highlighted the priestly aspects of Saul's position (**1 Sam. 10:1**). We associate anointing with kings, but oil was first applied to priests in Israel. The priest was the first "anointed one" or "Christ," and Saul became the first king who was also a "Christ."

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1 Samuel 1:20	And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the Lord."
1 Samuel 9:1	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.
Judges 19:13–15	13 And he said to his young man, "Come and let us draw near to one of these places and spend the night at Gibeah or at Ramah." 14 So they passed on and went their way. And the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, 15 and they turned aside there, to go in and spend the night at Gibeah. And he went in and sat down in the open square of the city, for no one took them into his house to spend the night.
1 Samuel 10:26	Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched.
1 Samuel 9:2	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.
1 Samuel 9:3	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."
1 Kings 1:33–44	33 And the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. 34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' 35 You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah." 36 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, say so. 37 As the Lord has been with my lord the king, even so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David." 38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon. 39 There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" 40 And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise. 41 Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished feasting. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "What does this uproar in the city mean?" 42 While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. And Adonijah said, "Come in, for you are a worthy man and bring good news." 43 Jonathan answered Adonijah, "No, for our lord King David has made Solomon king, 44 and the king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites. And they had him ride on the king's mule.
Zechariah 9:9	Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
1 Samuel 9:4–5	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."

<p>1 Samuel 9:6–10</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 9:15–17</p>	<p>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.”</p>
<p>1 Samuel 9:22–23</p>	<p>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.’ ”</p>
<p>1 Samuel 9:24</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 9:13</p>	<p>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.”</p>
<p>Leviticus 7:33–34</p>	<p>33 Whoever among the sons of Aaron offers the blood of the peace offerings and the fat shall have the right thigh for a portion. 34 For the breast that is waved and the thigh that is contributed I have taken from the people of Israel, out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons, as a perpetual due from the people of Israel.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 10:1</p>	<p>Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, “Has not the Lord anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.</p>