

# Making Promises

## Part 6: The Kingdom

### Review

- 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, whose name means "asked," is introduced in 1 Samuel 9 and anointed king in 1 Samuel 10 and became the first king to be anointed like the priests before.
- 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, he was from the town of Gibeah, where the tragedy at the end of the book of Judges.

### Chronology

- Apart from the period of the judges, perhaps no era of Israel's history is more complex in respect to chronology than the **eleventh century**. Our starting point must be the reigns of Solomon and David, the dating of which rests on reliable data.
  - ▶ The division of the kingdom occurred in **931 BC**. This coincided with the death of Solomon, who reigned for forty years (**1 Kings 11:42**) and therefore must have succeeded David in **971 BC**.
  - ▶ David in turn reigned for forty and a half years (**2 Sam. 2:11; 5:5**), having come to power around **1011 BC**.
- The major problem concerns the length of **Saul's reign**. It is evident that his death occurred in the year David began to reign at Hebron (**2 Sam. 1:1; 2:1-4**), in 1011, but the year of Saul's **accession** is not so clear.
  - ▶ The apostle Paul, in his address to the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch, stated that Saul reigned for forty years (**Acts 13:21**). This would date his tenure from **1051 to 1011**.
  - ▶ Unfortunately, at precisely the place that one might expect the usual formula summarizing a king's reign—**1 Samuel 13:1**—there is a **textual corruption**: "*Saul was ... years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel two years.*"
  - ▶ In support of Paul's statement that Saul ruled for forty years is the fact that

**Ish-Bosheth**, the son of Saul who succeeded him as king, was forty when he began to reign (**2 Sam. 2:10**), and yet he was likely not born until after Saul ascended Israel's throne. This is clear from a comparison of the list of Saul's sons in the earliest years of his reign (**1 Sam. 14:47–51**) and the list of all his sons (**1 Chron. 8:33; 9:39**).

## The Saga Continues

- After Samuel revealed to Saul that he was the anointed prince of Israel, he told him that confirmation would follow in the form of **three signs**:
  - ▶ First, Saul would meet two men by **Rachel's tomb** at Zelzah, and they would assure him that the lost donkeys had been found (**1 Sam. 10:2**).
  - ▶ Second, he would encounter three men at the **oak of Tabor**. They would be on their way to worship at Bethel and would share two loaves of bread with him (**1 Sam. 10:3-4**).
  - ▶ Finally he would come to **Gibeath-Elohim**, the location of a Philistine fortress, where he would join himself to a procession of prophets. He would participate in their playing and singing of music he had never learned. This would be a sign of the blessing of God's Spirit, who had changed Saul from a lowly citizen to the anointed prince of his people (**1 Sam. 10:5-6**).
  - ▶ Later, Samuel said, Saul would find himself at **Gilgal**. As a test of his obedience, he must wait **7 days** there for Samuel to come and offer sacrifice (**1 Sam. 10:8**).
- When all three signs had come to pass, Samuel gathered Israel together at **Mizpah** for the public ceremony of coronation and investiture (**1 Sam. 10:17–27**).
  - ▶ Samuel walked Israel through the process of the **lot**; he began with all the tribes until the elimination narrowed down to one man: Saul. What Yahweh had disclosed privately to Samuel (**1 Sam. 9:15–17**) he now declared publicly to Israel (**1 Sam. 10:20–21**).
  - ▶ Ironically, like the **lost donkeys** that had earlier consumed so much anxious time for their searchers (**1 Sam. 9:3–5, 20; 10:2, 14–16**), when they looked for **Saul**, he was not to be found (**1 Sam. 10:21**).
  - ▶ Verse 22 is likely meant to be the focal point of the episode. The people are so **dependent on Yahweh** that he must even disclose to them where they can find Saul (**1 Sam. 10:22**). Israel is utterly dependent upon Yahweh, even to the point of finding their king once he has been chosen. Israel cannot manage apart from Yahweh even in the simplest matters (**John 15:5**).

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<b>1 Kings 11:42</b>	And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.
<b>2 Samuel 2:11</b>	And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.
<b>2 Samuel 5:5</b>	At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.
<b>2 Samuel 1:1</b>	After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag.
<b>2 Samuel 2:1-4</b>	<a href="#">1</a> After this David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." <a href="#">2</a> So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. <a href="#">3</a> And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. <a href="#">4</a> And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. When they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul,"
<b>Acts 13:21</b>	Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.
<b>1 Samuel 13:1</b>	Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel,
<b>2 Samuel 2:10</b>	Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.
<b>1 Samuel 14:47-51</b>	<a href="#">47</a> When Saul had taken the kingship over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the Ammonites, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned he routed them. <a href="#">48</a> And he did valiantly and struck the Amalekites and delivered Israel out of the hands of those who plundered them. <a href="#">49</a> Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchi-shua. And the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn was Merab, and the name of the younger Michal. <a href="#">50</a> And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the commander of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. <a href="#">51</a> Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.
<b>1 Chronicles 8:33</b>	Ner was the father of Kish, Kish of Saul, Saul of Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab and Eshbaal;
<b>1 Chronicles 9:39</b>	Ner fathered Kish, Kish fathered Saul, Saul fathered Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal.
<b>1 Samuel 10:2</b>	When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, "The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?" "
<b>1 Samuel 10:3-4</b>	<a href="#">3</a> Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. <a href="#">4</a> And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand.
<b>1 Samuel 10:5-6</b>	<a href="#">5</a> After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. <a href="#">6</a> Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.
<b>1 Samuel 10:8</b>	Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."

<p><b>1 Samuel 10:17-27</b></p>	<p><a href="#">17</a> Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah. <a href="#">18</a> And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' <a href="#">19</a> But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands." <a href="#">20</a> Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. <a href="#">21</a> He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. <a href="#">22</a> So they inquired again of the Lord, "Is there a man still to come?" and the Lord said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." <a href="#">23</a> Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. <a href="#">24</a> And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!" <a href="#">25</a> Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the Lord. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home. <a href="#">26</a> Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. <a href="#">27</a> But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.</p>
<p><b>1 Samuel 9:15-17</b></p>	<p><a href="#">15</a> Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: <a href="#">16</a> "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." <a href="#">17</a> 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><b>1 Samuel 9:3-5</b></p>	<p><a href="#">3</a> 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." <a href="#">4</a> 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. <a href="#">5</a> 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>
<p><b>1 Samuel 9:20</b></p>	<p>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?"</p>
<p><b>1 Samuel 10:14-16</b></p>	<p><a href="#">14</a> Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." <a href="#">15</a> And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." <a href="#">16</a> And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.</p>
<p><b>John 15:5</b></p>	<p>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.</p>