

Samuel's Meeting With Saul

I Samuel 9:1-27

I. **A MAN OUT OF BENJAMIN**- v. 1-10

a. The tribe of Benjamin

- i. The youngest son of Jacob, smallest tribe (v. 21)
- ii. As Rachel was dying she named him Benoni- son of my sorrow", but Jacob changed it to "son of my right hand."
- iii. Scripture shows that at least four great people came from Benjamin's tribe, even though it was the smallest of the twelve tribes. First, Ehud, a great warrior who delivered Israel from Moab (Judges 3:12–30). Next, Saul becomes the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 9:15–27). In later Jewish history, many Jews lived in Persia, God used Mordecai and Esther, from the tribe of Benjamin, to deliver the Jews from death (Esther 2:5–7). Finally, in the New Testament the apostle Paul reveals he, too, came from Benjamin. "I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin" (Romans 11:1, Philippians 3:4–5.)
- iv. Sadly, Benjamin also had a large blot on its reputation. In Judges 19-21, Benjamin stirs up trouble against the other eleven tribes of Israel, and civil war ensues. This period had the reputation of everyone doing what was right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25). What led to the civil war was the horrific abuse and death of an unnamed Levite's concubine (Judges 19:10–28). The eleven tribes turned against the tribe of Benjamin and nearly annihilated them because of their refusal to give up the perpetrators (Judges 20:1—21:25). Eventually, the tribes restored Benjamin's tribe, greatly decimated due to the war, and the country reunited.
- v. In the future, 12,000 from the Tribe of Benjamin will be used during the Tribulation to preach the gospel and countless souls will be saved (Rev. 7:9)

- b. A mighty man of power: Kish, the father of Saul, was a wealthy and influential man in Israel. Saul came from a prestigious family and was born to wealth and influence.

- c. A choice and handsome young man: Saul was noted for both his family and his appearance. He was tall (taller than any of his people) and good looking. In fact, there was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. Saul looked like a great king. If being king over Israel was all about image and appearances, Saul was the man
- d. Saul means: asked of God
- e. Saul is one of those enigmas we encounter in the word of God- we see some light at first, but then much darkness
- f. Nothing is said about his relationship with the God of Israel. There is nothing said because there was nothing to say.
- g. Saul goes looking for his missing donkeys- v. 3-4
 - i. He takes a servant and travels about in search of the missing donkeys
 - ii. Israel's first king will be led to the throne by three lost donkeys. We have no idea how God will use the seemingly normal and annoying circumstances of life.
 - iii. This was all according to God's plan- v. 4
 - iv. V. 5-6- Finally, after searching without success they decide to inquire for the man of God

II. **SAUL MEETS THE MAN OF GOD**- v. 6-27

- a. This quest "coincidentally" leads them to Samuel- v. 18-20
- b. V. 11-19- The man of God is a seer/prophet
 - i. Seer- someone who sees, particularly supernatural sights
 - 1. God is establishing the office of the Prophet
 - 2. God's representative to man
 - 3. Samuel proves his prophetic office- v. 20
 - ii. V. 6- Samuel's reputation was well known: A man of God... an honorable man- every believer should have such a testimony
- c. God speaks to Samuel- v. 15-17
 - i. The Lord secretly told Samuel- Listen when God speaks!
 - ii. Tomorrow about this time: God gave the prophet Samuel specific guidance regarding future events
 - iii. I will send you: Even though Israel rejected the Lord as their king (1 Samuel 8:7), God was still in control. He has appointed Saul as captain/king

- iv. That he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines: Though there were many problems with the reign of Saul, it wasn't a total disaster. Saul led Israel to many military victories and greater independence from the Philistines.
- d. Samuel's meeting with Saul- v. 18
 - i. Had them sit in the place of honor: In that culture the seating arrangement at dinner had a special protocol. The seat of honor was always on a particular side next to the host. It was a great honor to be seated in this place next to the prophet Samuel.
 - ii. Saul was also given the special portion. In that culture every meal had a special portion to be given to the one the host wanted to honor. Saul was specially honored at this meal.
 - iii. Samuel spoke with Saul on the top of the house: No doubt, Samuel told Saul all about Israel's desire for a king and how he had to be a good king for Israel

Queen Victoria reigned over Great Britain for 64 years. When she was 11 years old, her governess showed her a list of the kings and queens of England with her name added at the end. When she understood what it meant she burst into tears. Then she controlled herself and said solemnly, "I will be good." Here, Samuel gave Saul the opportunity to say with his heart, "I will be good."

III. **ISRAEL'S DESIRE-** v. 16-17, 20

- a. V. 20- On whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you? With this, Samuel hinted at Saul's destiny. All Israel desired a king, and Saul will become the answer to that desire.
- b. Israel wanted a king, and God gave them what they wanted
 - i. Knowing the full story, we know that God gave them the sort of man that they deserved
 - ii. A little bit of, "Be careful what you wish for."
- c. What was God's desire? Pro-monarchy vs. antimonarchy
 - i. Dale Ralph Davis points out that some look at 9:16b as pro-monarchy, and 8:7-8 as anti-monarchy
 - ii. It is not that simple- the greater truth is that God is pro-mercy in 9:16
 - iii. We should not overlook Israel's sin- but don't miss God's mercy either!

Conclusion:

- This is an important reminder of God's providence and unconscious preparation
 - Does God's providence only apply in major events such as this?
 - God thrusts us unconsciously along His will at times- David, before he slayed Goliath had to go through lions and bears!
- May we follow the will of God for our lives, even when it doesn't seem to make sense.

Decision: Praying for God's will, not our own.