

1 **SAUL’S CHOOSING**

1 Samuel 9

2 **KING SAUL**

- Although David is the principle focus of this series, a serious study of David cannot begin without first understanding his complex and notorious predecessor: Saul.
 - The Choosing of Saul
 - The Anointing of Saul
 - The Failing of Saul

3 **ISRAEL IN THE IRON AGE**

From Judges to Kings

4 **ISRAEL IN THE IRON AGE**

- During the days of the judges, Israel had been a loose-knit confederacy of tribes that had seldom needed to unite against a common foe.
- Nomads (like the Midianites) and the kings of the remaining Canaanite city-states had occasionally sought to subject the Israelites, but local leaders known as “judges” had been able to handle these situations up till now.

5 **THE JUDGES**

- The Judges were local religious and military leaders which God raised up to deliver his people during times of crisis.
- The Judges for an important part of the repetitive cycle of sin-slavery-repentance-deliverance-comfort-sin we see throughout the book of Judges.
- Judges were local, not national, leaders, and were sometimes contemporary.

6 **THE PHILISTINES**

- During the latter years of the judges, the nation of Israel was threatened by an enemy larger and more organized than any they had previously battled: The Philistines.
- The Philistines were a highly-advanced seafaring people, with roots in the Aegean. They were one of the “Sea People” who eventually settled in the southern coastal plains of Canaan – the “Pentapolis.”

7 **THE PHILISTINES**

- Although they had absorbed much of the culture of the Canaanites, the Philistines brought with them many important technologies and advancements – not the least of which was a near-monopoly on iron in Canaan.
- While the previous foes of the Israelites had asserted themselves in distinct geographic locations, the Philistines were the virtual overlords of all of Canaan.

8 **THE BATTLE OF APHEK**

- The people of Israel are defeated decisively as a nation for the first time by the Philistines at Aphek.
- The elders of Israel bring the Ark of the Covenant into battle with them hoping it will serve as a talisman and bring them victory.
- But God does not honor this action, nor does he grant Israel victory.

9 **THE BATTLE OF APHEK**

- *And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods?"*

10 **THE BATTLE OF APHEK**

- Roughly a century before, the Philistines, along with other invading "Sea Peoples" fought a bloody battle with the Egyptians under Ramesses III.
- The Sea People were soundly defeated by the Egyptians, eventually leading to their settling in Canaan.
- Thus, they would have been familiar with the events of the Exodus and with the "gods" which had defeated the Egyptians, something they had failed to do.

11 **THE BATTLE OF APHEK**

- *These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight." So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. (1Sa 4:6-10)*

12 **ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING**

- The Battle of Aphek, which took place early in Samuel’s tenure as a judge of Israel, left the Philistines in clear command of Canaan; the Israelites had even lost the Ark of the Covenant.
- Samuel led the Israelites to a miraculous battle against the Philistines at Mizpah, but they continued to be a thorn in Israel’s side and as Samuel aged, the Israelites began to grow worried.

13 **ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING**

- *When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice. (1Sa 8:1-3)*

14 **ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING**

- *Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. (1Sa 8:4-6)*

15 **ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING**

- *And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. Now then, obey their*

voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them." (1Sa 8:7-9)

16 **GOD’S ORIGINAL PLAN**

- God’s original plan for Israel was that they would be ruled over by His law (Deut 17).
- In places where there was uncertainty about how an issue should be settled, they were to defer to the judgment of the priest, Levites, and any judges that God raises up (Samson, Samuel, et al.) (Deut 17:9-13).

17 **KINGS**

- However, God knew that His people would eventually clamor for a king so that they could be more like the nations around them (Deut 17:14).

18 **KINGS**

- Therefore, in the law he outlines a number of requirements for the man who would be king:
 - Must be an Israelite
 - Cannot “multiply horses” unto himself
 - Cannot sell the people into slavery or make alliances with Egypt for military might
 - Cannot multiply wives or treasure to himself
 - Must write out a copy of the entire Law upon assuming the throne
 - Must then live and rule in accordance with the Law
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19 **THE CALLING OF SAUL**

God providences, provides, and proclaims His will

20 **SAUL**

- *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. 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. (1Sa 9:1-2)*

21 **THE DONKEYS OF KISH**

- *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." 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. 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." (1Sa 9:3-5)*

22 **SAMUEL THE SEER**

- 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." 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?" 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." (1Sa 9:6-8)

23 1) GOD PROVIDENTIALLY ORDERS CIRCUMSTANCES

- As part of God’s call upon Saul’s life, he orders seemingly mundane circumstances to bring Saul into contact with Samuel.
- Note that God brings Saul into Samuel:
 - In the course of his normal duties as the heir of his father’s house and a dutiful son
 - So that it seems like it was Saul’s idea to begin with

24 SAUL IS CHOSEN

- *Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed to Samuel: "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." 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." (1Sa 9:15-17)*

25 2) GOD PREPARES THE WAY

- Before Saul arrives (thinking this is his idea) God has already prepared the way with Samuel.
- God has already been dealing in Samuel’s heart to remove the resistance to the idea of a king.
- As the “seer” or prophet of Israel, it is through Samuel that the appointment of a king must come – even all of Israel has acknowledged this.
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26 SAUL IS CHOSEN

- Saul goes to Samuel, who prepares a feast for him and reserves for him the finest portion of meat.
- Samuel tells Saul that his father’s donkeys have been found, and that God has brought him to Samuel for another reason.

27 SAUL IS ANNOINTED

- *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. (1Sa 10:1)*

28 3) GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WILL

- God makes known His will to Saul only after he has first prepared both Saul and Samuel’s hearts for obedience.
- When he does proclaim His will, it is clear that this is His doing and that it is for His people – not to satisfy Saul’s flesh or his need to rule.
- The purpose of God’s will is not to satisfy or gratify our fleshly desires for fame, control, rule, or pleasure.
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29 SAUL IS ANOINTED

- The anointing of kings in the Old Testament narrative is significant in that when it is pointed out to us, it always takes place in a pivotal moment of change:
 - Saul
 - David
 - Solomon
 - Jeroboam
 - Jehu