

1 Samuel 9

King James Version (KJV)

9 Now 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. (Israel rejected God's leadership in favor of a "strong man" – a man of power and substance, to be their king. - idiots)

(Benjamin at this time was a very small tribe – because of their rape and perversion in Gibeah. The other tribes almost wiped them out) See Judges-20

²And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people. (a tall handsome man) (Saul = asked; Samuel = asked OF God; there is a big difference between the two)

³And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.

⁴And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.

⁵And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us. (They need to get back to the farm. Saul's father will worry about them)

⁶And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go. (This is Samuel – a prophet of God)

(It is always good advice to ask God's council, when we need to make important decisions in our lives)

⁷Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a

present to bring to the man of God: what have we? (It was customary to bring a gift, when asking a favor)

⁸And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.

⁹(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.) (Today, a seer is a fortune teller. Even then, heathen seers were diviners who told fortunes by watching cloud formations. Samuel was called by God. He was not a seer; he was a true prophet)

¹⁰Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was. (This city was not Samuel's home. He would travel a circuit around Israel. God brought Samuel and Saul together here)

¹¹And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?

¹²And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place: (After the sons of Eli desecrated the tabernacle with their perversions, there was no central place for offerings to God. Therefore God accepted Samuel's offerings wherever he was at the time. Samuel was a prophet but he wasn't a high priest)

¹³As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him. (that be bidden = those who are invited)

¹⁴And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place. (He came out to meet them – better translation)

¹⁵Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

¹⁶To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people

Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me. (In the Aramaic Bible translation – For I have heard the oppression of my people. Their cry has reached up to me in heaven)

(So now Samuel will be expecting to meet the future king of Israel)

¹⁷ And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people. (Saul was an ass-keeper who can't find his own donkeys. The people wanted a man king, they will get one)

¹⁸ Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is. (He also can't find Samuel's house)

¹⁹ And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart. (Samuel is telling Saul to walk in front of him to the high place. This is showing respect and honor for Saul)

²⁰ And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house? (Saul is wondering what is going on by now. He is still humble at this time of his life)

²¹ And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me? (Saul was a humble man – God rewards those who are humble before Him)

²² And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons. (This was where the sacrificial meal was being prepared)

²³ And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

²⁴ And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel

that day. (The right shoulder was normally the priest's portion. Samuel is giving it to Saul as a symbol of transference of power from a priest to a monarch) see Leviticus-7:32

(From this time forward, Israel ceased to be a theocracy, and became a monarchy)

²⁵ And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house. (The rooftop was a good place for the family to commune after the sun went down and the air cooled)

²⁶ And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad. (the spring of the day = dawn of the day)

²⁷ And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on), but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God. (Samuel wants to speak to Saul privately)