

1 Samuel Lesson 11 God Answers the People's Demand for a King in the Person of Saul

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Kingship in the Near East in Samuel's time: people in the ancient Near East paid much attention to the appearance and the stature of their king. They wanted their king to look like a great champion, mighty in battle.

Key Words:

prince: Strong's H5057 "nagid" a leader, ruler, prince, commander. This word has a broad usage in scripture. It literally means "one in front".

In this chapter we are introduced to Saul, who will become the first human king of Israel. His kingship came about due to the demand of the elders of Israel to have a human king "like all the nations around them". God has granted their request and in this chapter we will meet the man that God has chosen.

Read 1 Samuel 9:1-19

1. List everything you find out about Saul from 9:1-2. How does this description fit into the people's image of what their king should be like? According to 1 Samuel 16:7 how does God's criteria for a leader differ from man's criteria?

Application: How can we make the same mistake that the Israelites did when we are searching for a pastor to lead us? What should we be looking for according to 1 Samuel 16:7?

2. Saul and his servant now search far and wide for some donkeys that Saul's father had lost. Read through the account of that search in 9:3-10 and answer the following questions:

a. What do you learn about Saul in this account in regards to His awareness of spiritual matters in Israel?

b. Contrast Saul's spiritual awareness with that of his servant.

3. Read through God's laws concerning Israel's kings in Deuteronomy 17:14- 20. What does it say about the king and his relationship to God and His law? What promise does God give to those kings who follow His commandments?

4. According to 1 Samuel 9:18-19 Saul and his servant met up with Samuel in the city. In 9:15 -17 what was the Lord's message to Samuel before this meeting occurred?

5. Looking back over the passage how do you see God working out His purposes (fulfilling what He had spoken to Samuel) in the normal circumstances of life? List the everyday events, beginning with the lost donkeys, that brought Saul and Samuel together.

Application: What did you learn about God and His providence from this and how can you apply it to your own life?

Application: What themes from The book of 1 Samuel do you see in this passage?

