

I Samuel 8-11

Historical Books II
Lecture #5

I Samuel

Chapter 8

The People Demand a King


Another Family Failure

- Like Eli, Samuel has two sons that do not serve the Lord.
 - Possibly because of Eli's model or influence on Samuel.
- “If you lose your family, you lose your ministry.”




Why Request a King?

- Samuel is old and his sons (apparent heirs) are not trustworthy.
- To be like the nations around them.
- To have a ready leader for battle



**All of these are a rejection
of God's rule (Theocracy)**

Why Does God Give Them a King?

- There was already groundwork laid for a monarchy – Genesis 17:6, Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
 - God will work through the idea of the monarchy to prepare for the Messiah.
 - He also gives them what they want to prove a point.
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- “O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.
I will be thy king: where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?
I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.”
(Hosea 13:9-11)

Samuel's Warning

- A king would:
 - Have a military draft.
 - Put people in servitude.
 - Confiscate land.
 - Tax heavily.
 - Limit personal liberty.
- Eventually they would regret it.



The People's Choice

Sinai – Exodus 20-24

- God told them what would happen – ch. 20-24
- The people heard and understood – 24:3
- The people agreed to do it – 24:7

Ramah – I Samuel 9

- God told them what would happen – vs. 10-18
- The people heard and understood – vs. 19
- The people agreed to do it – vs.19-20

I Samuel

Chapter 9

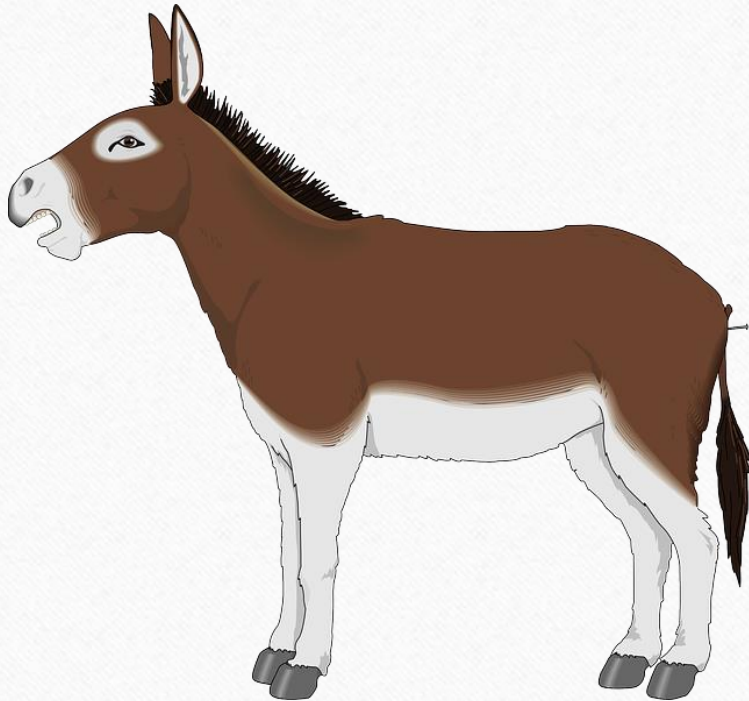
Saul's Entrance

Meet Saul

- A Benjaminite from Gibeah
- About 40 years old.
- Handsome.
- Tall - ~ 6' 6" maybe
- HE LOOKED LIKE A KING!
- Not religious.



Saul's Search



- We meet Saul as he is searching for some lost donkeys.
- “Little did he know how the search would end and that he would soon become the head of the nation, which had gone more astray than the lost asses (Isaiah 1:3).” — Gaebelein.

Money and Coins

- There are no true coins or money in the O.T. until the Persian Empire.
- The first coins were made in Lydia around 650 B.C.
- The first coins minted in Israel are from around 400 B.C.
- Precious metals were used in trade, valued on their weight.



Lydian Coin
c. 600 B.C
Electrum, 4.67 g.



Yebud coin
First coins
minted in Israel
c. 350 B.C
Silver, .37 g

Determining Values – I Samuel 9:8

- First, determine the type of precious metal – **silver**
- Second, determine the ancient weight – $\frac{1}{4}$ **shekel**
- Third, convert to modern weight – **2.85 grams** or **.09 troy ounces**
 - I do not worry about purity. These are likely 95-100% pure.
- Fourth, find the current spot price - **\$24.17** (on 8-28-23)
- Fifth, multiply spot price by modern weight – **\$2.21**

Samuel and Saul

- It is surprising they do not seem to know each other when they live about 5 miles apart.
- Samuel is hosting a sacrificial feast.
- “High place” – I don’t think this indicates pagan influence. The Tabernacle was never the same after the Philistine attack. This is decentralized worship.

Samuel and Saul

- Saul is singled out to the people by:
 - Sitting in place of honor
 - Getting the shoulder of beef
 - Conversing with Samuel

“the top of the house”

- Houses were built with flat roofs.
- People would spend time on the roofs.
- Sometimes they built “gazebos” on them.
- Image is a “four-room house” that archaeologists suggest was popular.



I Samuel

Chapter 10

Saul is Chosen

Saul's Assurances

- It seems that Saul is reticent or reluctant about being king.
- He is anointed privately by Samuel
- He is given three signs to assure him:
 - Meet messengers from his father.
 - Meet three men that will give him gifts.
 - Meet a company of prophets and join them.

Saul and the Prophets

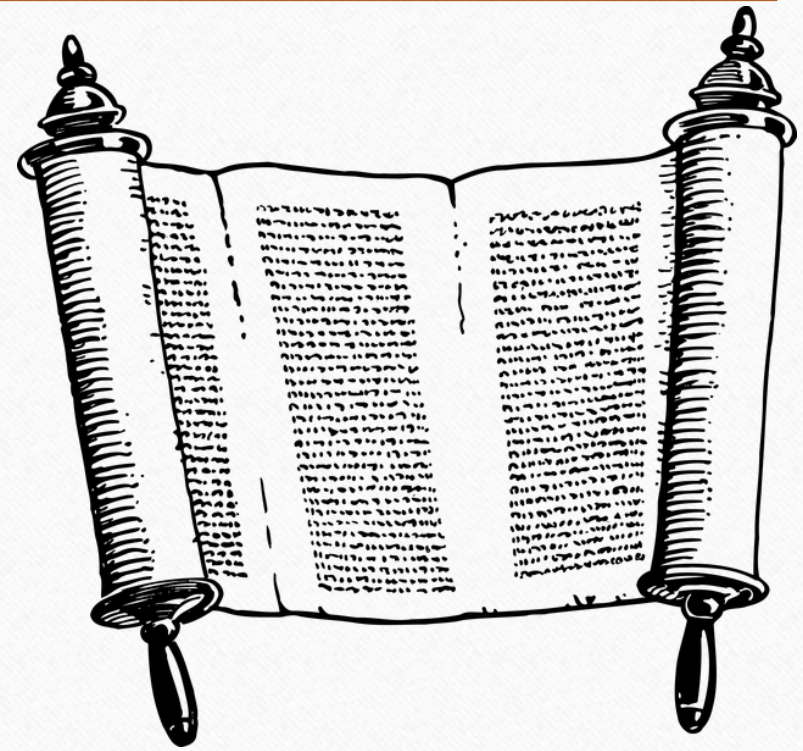
- This is the first of 3x that the Spirit “came upon” Saul.
- Though he is not very religious, he joins in with the prophets as if he had always been one of them.
 - This likely included music – vs. 5
- “Is Saul also among the prophets?” – it was so unexpected an event that it inspired a proverb.

Saul at Mizpeh

- The people gather at Mizpeh for Saul to be revealed to the nation.
- He hides when he is about to be revealed.
 - He seems reluctant to take the responsibility of being king.
- “If David was the king ‘after God's own heart,’ Saul was the king after the people's own heart.”
- Saul is king in title but still lacks authority.

Constitutional Monarchy

- Ancient monarchs of the Middle East are often pictured as despots and tyrants.
- Samuel establishes a charter for the kingdom, likely based on Deuteronomy 17.



I Samuel

Chapter 11

Rescue of Jabesh-Gilead

Ammonites

- Descendants of Lot via incest – Genesis 19:38
- Worshipped Molech and Milcom
- Brutal people - in war they mutilated their opponents.
- Nahash – “serpent”



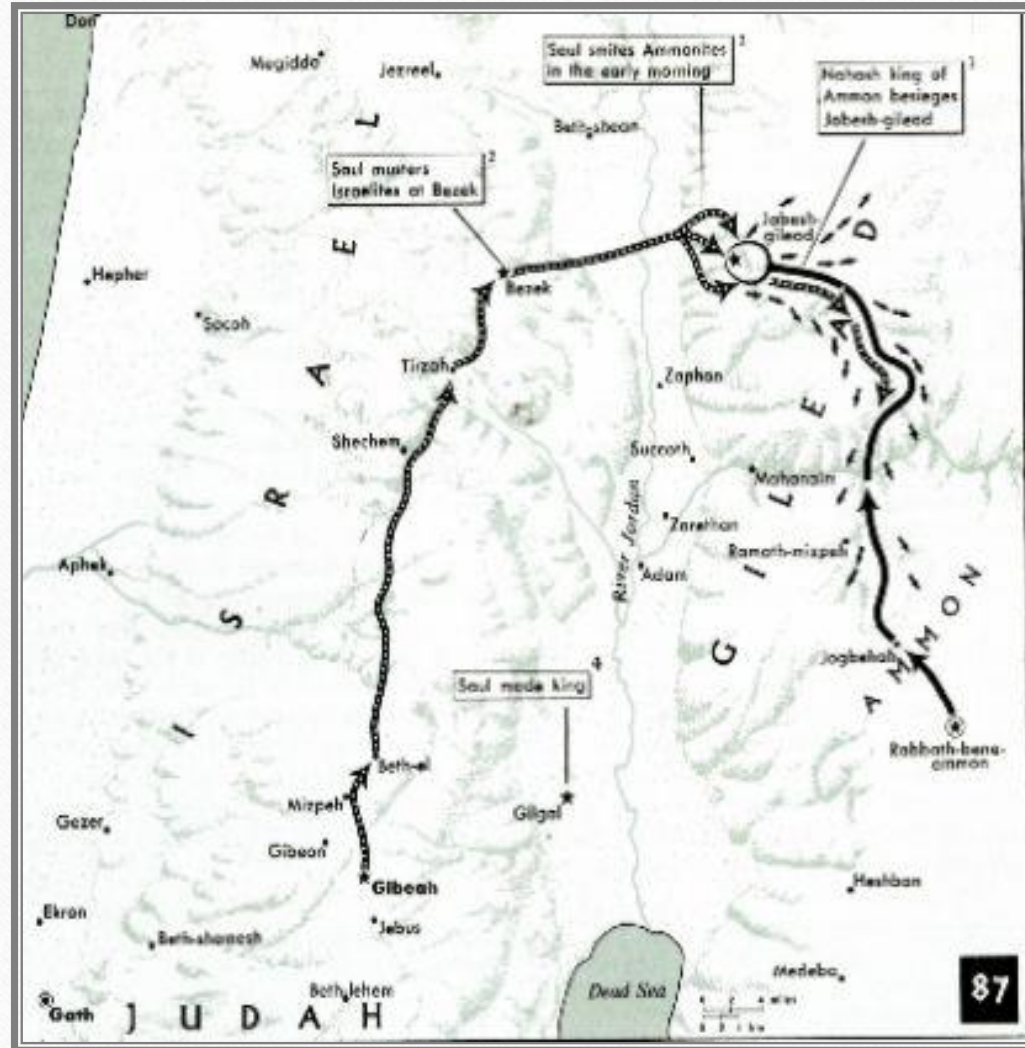
Jabesh-Gilead

- Saul likely has familial ties to Jabesh-Gilead.
 - After the tribe of Benjamin was almost wiped out in civil war (Judges 20), many of the survivors were given wives from here (Judges 21:12-14).
- About 60 years before Jephthah defeated the Ammonites in this area.



The Battle

- Saul has little practical authority and practically threatens Israel to respond.
- Forces:
 - 300,00 Israelites
 - 30,000 Judah
- Jabesh-Gilead feigns surrender.
- Saul catches the Ammonites off guard and attacks from three directions.
- This is the highwater mark of Saul's reign.



Reaffirming the Kingdom

- The victorious Israelites gather at Gilgal.
- Saul is reaffirmed as king.
- It all goes down hill from here...

