



Lesson 63

SAUL: ISRAEL'S FIRST KING

Story Elements

- **Text:** 1 Samuel 9:1-27
- **Setting:** approx. 1050 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, Samuel, and Saul
- **Plot:** The providence of God brings Saul to Samuel to be anointed the first king of Israel.
- **Key word(s):** “ _____ ”
- **Climax:** *“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.”* (vs. 17)

Providential Arrangement

1. Chapter 9 opens with a young man named Saul, the son of Kish, a Benjamite, searching for his father's lost donkeys.
 - a. (v 1) _____, Saul's father, was a wealthy man and well-known amongst the Hebrews.
 - b. (v 2) Saul was the tallest and most handsome man in all Israel – humanly speaking, he was everything most people would want in a _____.
2. God had told Samuel to relent to the Hebrew's demand for a king (8:7), but the LORD did not tell Samuel who should be the first king. We will see in verse 16 that Saul was not merely searching for lost donkeys but was being led _____.
3. (vv 4-10) After a long and fruitless search, Saul's servant suggested they consult with the highly esteemed _____ that dwelt in Ramah.
4. (vv 11-14) Upon arriving in Ramah, Saul and his companion were told they would find Samuel coming out of the city and going to make sacrifice in the high place.
 - a. We were told in 7:17 that Samuel made an _____ in Ramah. The elements of the story indicate that Samuel frequently worshiped with the people in this manner.
 - b. After the ceremony, certain people were invited to stay and _____ the sacrifice. Today, Saul and his servant would be included in the feast.
5. (vv 15-17) The LORD had told Samuel the day before that he would meet Israel's king the next day. When Samuel first saw Saul, he LORD said to him, “Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall _____ my people.”
6. (vv 18-20) Upon meeting, Samuel did two things:
 - a. He confirmed his status as _____ to Saul by declaring that his father's donkeys were found. This supernatural knowledge would prepare Saul to receive the other news that Samuel had. (v 20)

- b. He told Saul that he was everything the Hebrews wanted for a leader: "And on whom is all the _____ of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?"
7. (v 21) Saul's reaction to Samuel's statement was one of _____ – a characteristic that seemed to decline later in Saul's life.
 8. (vv 22-24) Samuel invited Saul and his servant to dinner, where Samuel gave Saul the privileged portion of the sacrifice that was typically reserved for priests. (cf. Lev. 7:28-36) Matthew Henry noted that Samuel gave his portion to Saul to signify that Saul was taking his place as Israel's _____.

Prophetic Announcement

9. (vv 25-27) The next day, after having lodged over night with Samuel, Saul and his servant prepared to return home. As they made their way to the city's edge, Samuel requested that Saul's servant go on ahead so Samuel could speak in private to Saul. Samuel told Saul, "stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the _____ of God."

To Be Continued...

Application

10. As in the case with Saul being chosen for Israel, God often lets people have exactly what they want before he gives them what they _____. (Psa. 106:15)
11. Saul lived about 20 miles from Samuel's house. Perhaps Saul's unfamiliarity with the famous prophet was a subtle clue as to his spiritual _____.
12. God works in our life providentially. What may seem like mundane events or _____ are actually God working his will and way. (Prov. 16:33)
13. The provision of Saul for Israel's king was both an act of judgment against Israel's rejection of God and an act of mercy in light of Philistine oppression (9:16). When God shows wrath, he can also show _____. (Hab. 3:2)

Answer Key

Key word(s) "man of God" • 1. a) Kish; b) leader • 2. providentially • 3. prophet • 4. a) altar; b) eat • 5. reign over • 6. a) prophet; b) desire • humility • 8. leader • 9. word • 10. need • 11. disposition • 12. coincidences • 13. mercy