

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

# 1 SAMUEL

[PART 16]

## LOOKING FOR DONKEYS - FINDING A KINGDOM

*Reading: 1 Samuel 9:1 - 10*

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### Introduction

- Change is coming.
- The chapter of being ruled by '**Judges**' is now over and the era of '**Monarchy**' is about to begin.
- Israel want a king to be like the rest of the nations around them.
- They were not rejecting Samuel; they were rejecting God.

### 1 An Introduction To Saul Of Kish

- In [Ch 9] we meet the man who would be Israel's first king - Saul.
- He started brilliantly but he finished appallingly. [Ecclesiastes 7:8].
- Its not how you start that matters ~ it's how you finish that counts. [Hebrews 12:1].
- He was first to wear a crown but he also lost his crown. [Revelation 3:11].
- The crown speaks of our reward. See [2 Timothy 4:8].
- Don't lose your crown. Don't miss your own coronation.
- At the start, God put His Spirit on Saul. At the end he sent him a troubling spirit.
- Saul banished mediums from the land yet went to one himself for a seance. [1 Samuel 28].
- He sought the life of an innocent man.
- Saul was a man who was shown mercy but responded with hatred.
- He began ever so humbly, yet ended ever so arrogantly.
- He ended up committing suicide. [Ch 31].
- In the opening chapters we learn from his good example but later we learn from his bad example.

## 2 Saul's Pedigree

- His name is mentioned 398 times in Bible. He hailed from the tiny tribe of Benjamin.
- Just like another Saul who became Paul in NT. [Philippians 3:5].
- Saul came from a family of wealth.

## 3 Saul's Presence

- [Vs 2]. He was the most handsome and the tallest man in all the land.
- Appearances are not everything.
- [1 Samuel 14:50]. His wife was Ahinoam who gave him 3 sons and 2 daughters.

## 4 The Purpose Of The Lost Donkeys

- Kish's donkeys go missing. This is not chance; it's God.
- Saul was happy to go look for them.
- **NB.** God often starts those who He plans to use with small things.
- After 3 days Saul proposes going home.
- The servant is aware that **'the seer'** Samuel is in a nearby city. Perhaps he can help them with their search?
- Consider [vs 15 & 16]. Samuel is told a day before Saul would be coming.
- Saul didn't know that all along he was walking in God's way. [Genesis 24:27].
- Many times God is leading you and I when we don't know it.
- We are being directed by **'the invisible hand of providence.'**
- Saul went looking for donkeys but found a kingdom.

## 5 The Attribute Of Beautiful Humility

- Observe the beautiful **'humility'** of Saul in the beginning. [vs 20/21].
- Man is interested in looks, appearances and wealth; God is interested in **'humility.'**
- Saul even hides [10:22] at the time he is meant to be presented to Israel.
- Consider [Romans 12:3], [James 4:6] and [1 Peter 2:6].
- Consider the important parable Jesus told in [Luke 18:9 - 14].
- This man (the humble man) went down to his house **'justified.'**
- God is looking for the humble man/woman, the self-effacing man and woman.
- A great man/woman is always willing to be little.

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