



**One King to Rule Them All**  
11<sup>th</sup> in the “God’s King” Series  
1 Samuel 9  
August 7, 2022  
Pastor Kurt Pazdra

### Introduction

Scripture is consistently clear that God is the One True King, the King of Kings. Why then did God allow Saul to rule over His own covenant people? And what, exactly, were God’s purposes for Saul?

### The Text: I Samuel 9:1-27

<sup>1</sup> There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. <sup>2</sup> And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. <sup>3</sup> Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, “Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys.” <sup>4</sup> And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them.

<sup>5</sup> When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, “Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us.” <sup>6</sup> But he said to him, “Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go.” <sup>7</sup> Then Saul said to his servant, “But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?” <sup>8</sup> The servant answered Saul again, “Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way.” <sup>9</sup> (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, “Come, let us go to the seer,” for today’s “prophet” was formerly called a seer.) <sup>10</sup> And Saul said to his servant, “Well said; come, let us go.” So they went to the city where the man of God was.

<sup>11</sup> As they went up the hill to the city, they met young women coming out to draw water and said to them, “Is the seer here?” <sup>12</sup> They answered, “He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place. <sup>13</sup> As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately.” <sup>14</sup> So they went up to the city. As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

<sup>15</sup> Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: <sup>16</sup> “Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me.” <sup>17</sup> When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, “Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people.” <sup>18</sup> Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, “Tell me where is the house of the seer?” <sup>19</sup> Samuel answered Saul, “I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. <sup>20</sup> As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father's house?” <sup>21</sup> Saul answered, “Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?”

<sup>22</sup> Then Samuel took Saul and his young man and brought them into the hall and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, who were about thirty persons. <sup>23</sup> And Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, ‘Put it aside.’” <sup>24</sup> So the cook took up the leg and what was on it and set them before Saul. And Samuel said, “See, what was kept is set before you. Eat, because it was kept for you until the hour appointed, that you might eat with the guests.”

So Saul ate with Samuel that day. <sup>25</sup> And when they came down from the high place into the city, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep. <sup>26</sup> Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, “Up, that I may send you on your way.” So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street. <sup>27</sup> As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God.”

**Even though Israel rejected YHWH God as their King (Ch. 8), the One True King still answered their cry for deliverance; God selected Saul to be Israel’s prince, purposed to rescue and restrain them on God’s behalf.**

### Response

- 1) Let us remember that God alone is King over all other authorities—and the only perfectly good King.
- 2) Let us resist the temptation to turn to another person or thing in God’s place.
- 3) Let us call on Christ our King with three appropriate postures:
  - a. Defer to Him.
  - b. Depend on Him.
  - c. Do not settle.

## Sunday Text Questions

1 Samuel 9:1-27

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- 1) Starter Question: What are some of the reasons why it can be hard to trust that God is the King of Kings – with all authority, all power, and always perfectly good?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Read verse 21. Does anyone remember what was shared about the humbled status of Benjamin at this time in Israel's history? [The details are found in Judges 20-21].
- 4) Think about Saul's character, appearance, and family background. Is he king material? Why or why not?
- 5) What is Saul's goal in this story, and what is God's plan for him?
- 6) Is God's plan in conflict with Saul's goal? Why or why not?
- 7) Can you remember a time when you realized by looking back that God's perfect plans overruled and redeemed your own plans? What did you personally learn from that realization? Share as much as you're comfortable sharing with the group.
- 8) Read verses 22-24. What was the significance of Saul having a banquet meal held in his honor, with many guests attending the meal, and him eating a priestly portion set aside for "the appointed time?"
- 9) Why does it matter that God appointed Saul to be prince, and not king?
- 10) Review the applications in the bulletin notes. Have each member of the group share which application they are currently strongest in keeping, which one they struggle most with, and why.

**Further study this week:** Passages that explain how (a) God is King over every other human authority, (b) His Son Jesus perfectly reveals and embodies His Kingship, and (c) why we ought to trust and obey Jesus as King: Proverbs 16:9; 21:1 (Mon); Isaiah 9:1-7 (Tues); Colossians 1:15-23 (Wed); 1 Timothy 6:9-16 (Thurs); Revelation 19:11-21 (Fri).