

I. The Asking (8:1–22): Israel asks Samuel for a king.

A. The logic (8:1–5): The people request a king because Samuel is old, his sons are corrupt, and the surrounding nations have kings.

B. The lamentation (8:6–9): This request upsets Samuel, but the Lord assures him that the people are rejecting God, not him.

C. The liabilities (8:10–22): Samuel explains the consequences of allowing a king to rule over them.

1. The review (8:10–18): A king will force military service and slave labor upon their sons and daughters and impose heavy taxes on them.

2. The refusal (8:19–22): In spite of Samuel’s warning, the people still demand a king!

II. The Acquisition (9:1–27): Samuel acquires a king for Israel, a man named Saul.

A. The person (9:1–2): The Lord chooses Saul to become the first king of Israel. Saul is a tall, handsome man from the tribe of Benjamin.

B. The particulars (9:3–27)

1. The mission of Saul (9:3–13)

a. The search (9:3–5): Saul is sent by his father to locate some donkeys that have strayed; he does not find them.

b. The suggestion (9:6–13): One of Saul’s servants advises him to ask a seer concerning the whereabouts of the lost donkeys.

2. The message to Samuel (9:14–16): In the meantime, the Lord tells Samuel that he is sending a man from the tribe of Benjamin to become Israel’s first king.

3. The meeting of both (9:17–27): As Saul approaches Samuel to ask where the seer lives, the Lord tells Samuel that this is the man who will be king.

a. Samuel’s assurance (9:17–20): Samuel tells Saul that the missing donkeys have been found and that he is the focus of Israel’s hopes!

b. Saul’s amazement (9:21): Saul finds this difficult to believe, pointing out that he comes from an unimportant family from Benjamin, Israel’s smallest tribe.

c. Saul’s actions (9:22–27): Samuel prepares a meal for Saul and his servants and specially honors him. Later Samuel makes accommodations for Saul and sends him on his way.

III. The Anointing (10:1–27): Just before Saul leaves, Samuel anoints him as the next king of Israel.

A. The proof (10:1–9): Samuel anoints Saul and tells him that several signs will demonstrate that he has indeed been chosen as Israel’s king. These signs are fulfilled after Saul leaves Samuel:

1. The message of two men (10:2): Two men will tell Saul that the donkeys have been found and that his father is worried about him.

2. The meal of three men (10:3–4): Three men will offer Saul two loaves of bread.

3. The music of some prophets (10:5): Saul will meet some prophets coming down from a hill and playing music.

4. The ministry of the Spirit (10:6): The Spirit of the Lord will come upon Saul and cause him to prophesy with the prophets.

B. The proverb (10:10–12): Saul’s prophetic experience so amazes his friends that they create a proverbial expression “Is Saul a prophet?”

C. The placating (10:13–16): When Saul returns from his trip, his uncle asks him where he has been. Saul tells him that he went to see Samuel and that the donkeys have been found, but he does not mention being anointed king of Israel.

D. The presentation (10:17–24): At Mizpah Samuel introduces Saul to the people as their king, although Saul must be brought out from his hiding place among the baggage!

E. The parchment (10:25): Samuel writes the king’s responsibilities in a book and deposits it in the Tabernacle.

F. The positions (10:26–27): Some support Saul and become his constant companions; others oppose him and refuse to bring him gifts

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Questions/Applications

- The elders of Israel were wise in looking at the status of their leadership knowing they needed some help for the future. As the elders of Israel did at the time, you too can look at your life and the path you are on too see where you are headed based on your history. Based on your history, what are sins you need to deal with.

- We see that Israel when faced with an obvious issue wanted to come up with their own solutions based on what the culture around them dictated. Instead we should seek out God and his desire for solutions to our know issues and sin.
- The theme of idols runs throughout the Old Testament so this question should come up often. An idol is something you hold in higher regard than God. What are the idols in your life that need to be put back in their proper place behind God?
- A good discussion to have is the one of the desires of the people of Israel. So often the people of Israel wanted to have something tangible to worship and we desire the same thing. It is difficult to worship God at times because he doesn't feel present. How is it we can keep our focus on God and see what He is doing in our lives. (Some ideas, we live in community, often God is moving in ways we can't see but others can. Sharing our stories and struggles with one another. Reading and meditating on the gospel.)
- Chapter 9 tells the story of how God revealed to Samuel his plan for a king of Israel and the ways in which God remains in control of a people who want a person to lead. This speaks to a great theological issue of God being in control of what is going on. Even when we think we are in control we are not. Looking back on your life, how have you seen God in control of your life even when you didn't feel like He was involved.
- Samuel anoints Saul as king over Israel with the blessing of God. In our lives God asks us to do extraordinary things that we may not even think is possible. Are there things in your life that God is asking you to do that you don't even think are possible?
- God is so faithful when he asks us to do his work that he will empower us to do the work. We don't have to do it on our own. We see in chapter 10 how God transforms Saul into the type of king that can rule Israel and God speaks to Saul as a prophet.