

READ 1 SAMUEL 8-10 “THE PEOPLE’S CHOICE”

Note: Before we can study the life of David we must look at the life of Saul as the two men are linked in biblical history. According to Dr. Gene Getz “both men had much in common: both were outstanding young men whose early experiences with God reflected sincerity and humility.” Both started well. Too, both men failed miserably as they walked with God. The main difference between the two men is how they ended. Tragically, Saul turned away from God while David renewed his heart and relationship with the Lord.

- 1.A. In 1 Samuel 8:1 we read: “when Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel.” Who was Samuel? See 1 Samuel 1:10-11 with 17-20 and 24-28. Also see 1 Samuel 3:1 and 3:19-21 with 1 Samuel 7:15-17.
- 1.B. What facts can we ascertain about Samuel’s sons from 1 Samuel 8:2-3? According to verse 4, who approaches Samuel in Ramah? In verse 5 what did they want? What reasons did they give as they sought to validate their request?
- 1.C. Samuel was probably devastated with the people’s request as he felt personally rejected. How does God reassure His prophet in verses 7-8? God granted the elder’s request, but He also warned them of the consequences of their rejection. In verses 9-18 what would happen in Israel as the people sought to be like the other nations?
- 1.D. **CHALLENGE QUESTION:** God always fulfills His Word. Adding biblical references, when did the people experience the consequences of their rejection of God as their King?
- 2.A. In 1 Samuel 9 Samuel meets Saul for the first time while Saul is searching (verses 3-14) for his father’s lost donkeys. How is Saul described in verses 1-2? How does Saul describe himself in verse 21?

- 2.B. **OPTIONAL QUESTION:** According to Judges 20:40-21:23, what almost happened to the tribe of Benjamin during the era of the judges as the people “did as they saw fit in their own eyes?”
- 2.C. Before seeing Saul, God prepared Samuel for the meeting. In 1 Samuel 9:5-17 what did God say to Samuel about Saul? What was Saul to do for God?
- 3.A. As Saul’s saga continues in chapter 10 what does Samuel do for Saul in verse 1? What three signs did Samuel give to Saul confirming the new king’s calling?
- First sign in verse 2:
- Second sign in verses 3-4:
- Third sign in verses 5-7:
- 3.B. On his way home God was trying to teach this new king that He could solve Saul’s problems; He could supply Saul’s needs; and He would supernaturally enable Saul. In your life do you believe God can help you in these three areas? How and when have you seen God solve your problems, meet your needs, OR enable you for His service?
- 4.A. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon God’s chosen people enabling them to perform special tasks. He came, but He often left that person when the task was complete. Describe the Spirit’s ministry in the lives of the following people. See Exodus 31:1-5, Numbers 11:16-17, Deuteronomy 34:9 with ONE of the next verses. See Judges: 3:9-11, 6:34, 11:29, or 15:12-15.

- 4.B. Today the Spirit's ministry is very different. The moment a person places his trust in Jesus as his Savior, the Spirit comes to live within (1 Corinthians 6:19). Describe the Holy Spirit's ministry today? See John 16:7-15, 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:30 and Ephesians 5:18.
- 4.C. **THOUGHT QUESTION:** Have you trusted in Christ for forgiveness and salvation; thus, do you have the Holy Spirit living within you?
- 4.D. Turning back to the Old Testament as God prepared Saul to lead Israel, God "changed Saul's heart" in 1 Samuel 10:9. What do you think this means? In verse 10 what does Saul begin to do in the Spirit?
- 5.A. Saul returned home to the family farm while Samuel summoned the people. What does Samuel say to the Israelites in 1 Samuel 10:17-19? What does Samuel do in verses 20-21? Meanwhile Saul, according to verse 22, was hiding. Do you think Saul was hiding out due to modesty or fear? Why do you think so?
- 5.B. In verses 23-25 how does Saul's coronation-day end?
- 5.C. Saul went home again. In verse 26 who went with Saul? Why? What "footnote" is found in verse 27? How did King Saul respond?
- 5.D. God chose Saul to be Israel's first king, but Saul was a reluctant ruler. Shunning God-given responsibility is often a natural response to God's call. Natural, but disastrous! What has God called and empowered you to do? How did you respond? Do you identify with hesitant Saul? Or do you identify more with shy Moses (Exodus 3-4), available Isaiah (Isaiah 6), bold Peter (Acts 2), or obedient Philip (Acts 8)?