



# **Saul: First King of Israel**



**One day, the children of Isreal gathered together to talk to God’s prophet, Samuel. They told Samuel that he was getting old and that his son’s weren’t living right. They said they didn’t want to ge ruled by judges anymore. They wanted a king like other countries had.**

**Samuel wasn’t pleased with their request, but still, he took their petition to the LORD.**





**Samuel prayed and asked the LORD what to do.**

**The LORD answered him, “Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. ... Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.”**



**So, Samuel told the people, “This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands... and will set them to ear the ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make him instruments of war. And he will take your daughters to be confectioneries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive yards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.”**



**Samuel told them that once they made up their mind they couldn't change it. He told them that if they cried to God later for help from the king that He wouldn't answer them.**

**The people said, "Nay; but we will have a king over us; that we also may be like other nations; and that our king might judge us, and go out before us and fight our battles."**

**Samuel told the LORD what the people said, and the LORD told him to make them a king. Then, Samuel told the people to go home.**





**There was a man named Kish, who was a mighty man of power, and he had a son named Saul, who was a choice young man.**

**One day, some donkeys were lost and Saul went out with a servant to go look for them. They looked and looked but could not find the donkeys.**

**Finally, Saul told his servant that they had better go back home because he knew that his father would be getting worried.**



**Saul's servant said, "Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he saith surely cometh to pass. Now, let us go thither; peradventure he can show us our way that we should go."**

**Saul answered his servant, "But, behold if we go what shall we bring the man? For the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring the man of God. What have we?"**

**The servant answered Saul that he had a little money left that he would give the prophet to show them the way. Then, Saul said they could go.**



**Samuel and Saul met as Saul and his servant were going in the city and Samuel was coming out.**

**The day before, the LORD had showed Samuel that about this time of day, He would show him, who He had chosen to be king. When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, “Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! This same shall rule over my people.”**

**Then, Saul came close to Samuel and asked, “Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer’s house is.”**





**Samuel answered Saul, “I am the Seer: go up before me into the high place; for ye shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thy heart. And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel Is it not on thee, and thy father’s house?”**

**Saul answered. “ Am not I a benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel And my family of the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Wherefore then, speakest thou so to me?”**



**That night, Samuel went to a feast and took Saul and his servant with him. He made Saul and his servant to sit in the best place in front of the thirty people that were there. He, also, told the cook to give Saul the best cut of meat.**

**Then, the next day when Saul and his servant were getting ready to leave, Samuel told Saul to send his servant ahead because he wanted to speak with him.**



**Then, Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it on Saul's head. He kissed him and said, "Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over His inheritance?" Then, he told him that three things were going to happen. First, when he went past Rachael's grave, he would meet a man that would tell him the donkeys had been found and that his father was worried about him. Second, he said that Saul would meet three men that would give him two loaves of bread. Third, he said Saul would meet some prophets and would prophesy with them.**





**So, Saul journeyed, and all the things that Samuel told him would happen did. He met the men that told him the donkeys were found and that his father was worried. He met the men that gave him two loaves of bread. And he met the prophets and prophesied with them.**

**The people that knew Saul before were surprised when they saw him prophesy. They said, “What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?”**



**Then, Saul and his servant met up with Saul's uncle. Saul's uncle asked, "Whither went thee?"**

**Saul answered that they went to find the donkeys, and when they couldn't, they went to see Samuel to ask for help.**

**Saul's uncle asked what Samuel had said to him.**

**Saul replied that he had told him that the donkeys were found. However, he didn't tell him the rest of what Samuel had said.**



Later, Samuel gathered all the people together and told them, “Thus saith the LORD God of Isreal. I brought up Isreal out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hands of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all the kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you: And ye have this day rejected your God... and ye have said unto Him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD.” And Saul was chosen of the LORD to be the next king, but at first, they couldn’t find him. So, Samuel prayed and asked God.





**The LORD told Samuel that Saul was hiding among the stuff. So, the people went to get Saul and brought him to Samuel.**

**Samuel said, “ See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? ”**

**Then, all the people shouted, “God save the king!”**

**Samuel made his final report about the kingdom to the people, wrote it down in a book, and set it before the LORD.**

**Then, everyone went home.**



**After Saul had been king for two years, there was a war with the Philis'tines. Saul and his son, Jonathan, both took a company of soldiers. Saul had 2,000 men, and Jonathan had 1,000 men. Jonathan's company had victory in their battle.**

**Then the Philis'tines gathered together 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and more soldiers than Israel could even count.**

**When the children of Israel saw that they were in trouble, they hid in caves and thickets and rocks and pits.**

**Saul waited seven days for Samuel to come and sacrifice to the LORD for them, so God would go with them to fight. While he waited, his army scattered.**



**When Samuel didn't come, Saul said, "Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings." Then, he offered the burnt offering, instead of Samuel.**

**As soon as Saul had finished, Samuel showed up. He said, "What hast thou done?"**

**Saul answered, "Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not in the days appointed, and that the Philis'tines gathered themselves together... I forced myself therefore and offered a burnt offering."**

**Samuel answered. "Thou hast done foolishly. Thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God...now thy kingdom shall not continue.**





**For the Lord hath sought a man after His own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over His people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.” Then, Samuel left.**

**Saul counted the men he had left to fight and found he had 600 men. These men, also, didn’t have swords or spears because the Philis’tines had made it so that Israel had to get their weapons from them, and they wouldn’t give them any. Only, Saul and Jonathan had swords.**

**Jonathan asked the young man that bare his armor to go with him to the garrison of the Philis’tines. When they got there, Jonathan told him that they were going to call to them and if they asked them to come up they were going to go because that meant that God had given them into their hand.**



**The Philis'tines called for Jonathan to come up, so Jonathan and his armor-bearer went up to meet them. Then, they fought. Jonathan killed man after man, twenty in all, on just a half-acre of land, and his armor-bearer killed after him.**

**Then, the Philis'tines began to run. They trembled so much that the earth began to shake, also, from their trembling.**

**Then, Saul saw from a distance that the army of the Philis'tines were running away in a panic, trampling over one another. He asked if any of their men were gone. They told him that Jonathan and his armor-bearer were gone. Then, Saul assembled his army, and they ran after the Philis'tines.**



**The people that were with Saul were weak and tired because Saul had told them, they were going to fast that day and not eat. He said that anyone that ate would be killed, so the people were very faint. Jonathan, however, had not heard what his father had said and he had eaten some honey that he saw in a tree when they passed by a hive.**

**That night when the people could eat again, they flew upon the animals of the Philis'tines and ate them before the blood was cooked out. This was told to Saul, and he stopped them, telling them to cook the meat in front of him and not to sin against the LORD by eating the blood.**

**Then, the people wanted to go down and kill the rest of the Philis'tines while they slept and take the rest of their things. Saul asked the LORD if they should do that, but the LORD would not answer him.**





**Saul figured that the LORD wasn't answering him because someone had broken the oath and ate something that day before the fast was over. So, he set out to figure out who had done this. He told the people that he was going to cast lots to see who it was. Then, he prayed that God would make the lot come out accurately. The lot fell on his son, Jonathan. Saul asked him what had happened, and Jonathan told him about the honey. Saul said that Jonathan would be killed, but the people said, 'no.' They said that Jonathan had saved there country that day, and that they wouldn't allow him to be killed. So, Saul relented, and they all went home from the battle.**



**Later, Samuel came to Saul and told him that the LORD wanted him to take his army and fight with king Amalek and his people. He told him that God wanted them to destroy everyone and everything, even all the animals.**

**So, Saul gathered his army together, 210,000 people, and they went to war with Amalek and defeated him. However, instead of killing and destroying everything. They kept the best of the cattle for themselves and kept king Agag alive.**



**The word of the LORD came to Samuel saying, “It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.” This grieved Samuel, and he cried to the LORD all night.**

**The next day, Samuel went out to find Saul. When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said, “Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.”**

**Samuel answered. “What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?”**





**And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”**

**Samuel said, “When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, go and utterly destroy the sinners, the amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?”**



**And Saul said, “Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.”**

**Samuel said, “Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”**





**Saul said, “I have sinned: yet honor me now, I pray thee, before the elders of the people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.”**

**Samuel turned and went with Saul to worship the LORD before the people. Then, Samuel said to bring Agag to him. Agag, who figured he was no longer in danger of being killed, came willingly, but Samuel said, “As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” Then, he killed him before the LORD.**





**For the rest of his life, Samuel never came to see Saul again. However, he did mourn for Saul and for what had happened.**

**Saul continued to be king but not as happily as before. Not long after, the spirit of the LORD left Saul and an evil spirit troubled him.**

**The LORD called to Samuel and said, “How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel. Fill thy horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.”**