

# 'The Rise of the Kings Series'

## Sermons in the Book of 1 Samuel

### Message 14 - 'It's All in the Details' 1 Samuel 9:1 - 26



The narrative shifts from Samuel to Israel's first king, Saul. In this passage we see that God is sovereign in all things, even the small details of our lives. Saul will be anointed and appointed as God's first king for Israel, yet in reality the path to that position is far from glamorous; in fact it is through the ordinary that God brings about the extraordinary. The lesson is writ large, the great God of heaven can use the minute detail of your lives, however insignificant you may think them to be, and use them as mighty channels of opportunity and blessing. So two things we can see regarding Saul:

**Purposeful Presentation (v1-2)** - The first two verses of this chapter purposefully present and add depth to all that will ensue. Kish, Saul's father, is clearly a wealthy farmer, and he is from the tribe of Benjamin. The family had pedigree in the tribe of Benjamin. Saul was a man with pedigree as well as a strong outward appearance, he seemed every inch a king. Despite his comments to Samuel in v21, Samuel was from a powerful family. He fulfilled the popular expectations of what a king should look like. The description of Saul's outward strength is not to be missed. His appearance is ideal in the sense of physical impressiveness and external attraction. Despite these qualities, there is no sign of spiritual life, or a concern for the things of God.

**Perfect Providence (v3-25)** - Providence is the mysterious workings of God that see His purposes fulfilled in the world, and in the lives of people, sometimes in remarkable ways, oft times in the normality of our circumstances. Saul is a normal farm boy, and performing a normal task, yet God will work through this. Although, sometimes insignificant events can bring forth God's mighty acts, a common occurrence can become a life-defining moment. It seems amazing that Saul could have lived so close to Samuel, Israel's spiritual leader, and yet not really know about him or where he was based. God was about to break into Saul's life in a way that would change his course forever, and certainly, whatever attitudes people may have, when God moves and begins to work in a life, then there can be no apathy. God's providence was wonderfully at work, as he takes the insignificant task of finding some lost donkeys, to bring Saul to Samuel, and Saul to the throne. Saul had been faithful in the small things, obedient to his father, listening to his servant, and seeking after those donkeys. It was then that God would use him. You may think that what you have been given to do at this moment is insignificant, or that you cannot see how the Lord can possibly use you in your situation. Take heart, God is interested in the details of your life, He loves you and has a plan for you. Even though you may think that you are caught 'chasing donkeys' as it were, God can use you, change your situation in ways that you never thought possible. God's sovereignty and purposes are a great comfort for His people, we can trust that He has the best for us, and even though we cannot see the end from the beginning, He can. We are called to be faithful and diligent in the things the Lord has given to do at this time, however insignificant or small, but who knows what further areas of service/opportunity the Lord may open for you. From searching for lost donkeys, Saul had been found and was to be king! He went looking for donkeys and found a crown. It means we have to understand something of the nature and sovereignty of God, and trusting Him in way that means that we look beyond what we can see to what God can see. He knows the beginning from the end. A circumstance that might see you looking for donkeys, could lead to a rich blessing of God once the day is done.



## Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs