

## Looking for Donkeys Finding a Kingdom 1 Samuel 9

### INTRODUCTION

The process by which a king was eventually given to Israel is important to understand. It is an involved story, which will take from 1 Samuel 9:1 through 1 Samuel 12:25 to tell.

We come to a passage now that in one sense is a logical bridge between chapter 8, where the LORD agrees to give his people a king, and the second half of chapter 10, where we see the public appointment of Saul as king.

**But in other ways the transition from chapter 8 to 9 is odd.** It's odd *first* because we have a break at the beginning in the narrative. **We go from a national gathering of Israel, to suddenly looking for missing donkeys with a Benjaminite.** It takes some time before we see how this story connects with chapter 8.

But it's *also* odd because most of us want to be able to find right here in chapters 9 and 10 and beyond evidence of what kind of king Saul will be ... but I think the narrator is intentionally ambiguous.

**On the one hand,** it seems that the LORD has agreed to give Israel the kind of king they asked for, as a form of discipline. And so, we expect the man Samuel calls to be something of a tyrant. But off the bat, Saul doesn't look like the kind of tyrant described in chapter 8:11-18.

**On the other hand,** though, Saul also does not strike us as having exceptional virtue or piety either. It's not really clear what to make of Saul at first. And that just might be intentional at this point.

I. Saul's \_\_\_\_\_ (9:1-2)

A. Saul's \_\_\_\_\_ (9:1)

B. Saul's \_\_\_\_\_ (9:2)

II. Saul's \_\_\_\_\_: looking for \_\_\_\_\_ in all  
the wrong places (9:3-10)

A. The \_\_\_\_\_: lost donkeys (9:3)

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ (9:4-10)

III. Saul's \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ (9:11-24)

A. Saul receives \_\_\_\_\_ from the young  
women (9:11-13)

B. Saul \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel (9:14, 17-19a)

C. A brief \_\_\_\_\_ that changes \_\_\_\_\_  
(9:15-16)

D. Samuel's \_\_\_\_\_ for Saul (19-27)

## **CONCLUSION/INVITATION**

What can we take with us this morning? Here are a few truths to ponder:

- **The story told in chapters 9 and 10 was an important story for the original readers of Samuel because the story confirms that Saul was in fact \_\_\_\_\_ by God to be Israel's first king.**
- **God chose to work this way to show the original readers then and all of us this morning that He is not only the God of supernatural intervention every now and then; more importantly, He is the God of \_\_\_\_\_ always and in all things.**

Here's a good summary of God's providence: wise and purposeful sovereignty. But what does it mean for you and me?

- **First, we need to see that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's providence is always God's glory and our good.**
- **Secondly, God's \_\_\_\_\_ can only make sense in light of God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The best way we can make any sense of God's providence in our lives is by learning and living the word of God.**

**Sin makes everything blurry. And when everything is blurry, we are prone to either see ourselves as the victims of blind chance or cruel fate, or we see ourselves as the masters of our own destinies. As we will see, that's exactly how Saul would later fail.**

We need, this morning, to put on God's corrective lenses, and see the truth that the details in our lives are not lost to Him. What a comfort to know that God is working in this way. Let's thank Him together and pray that we would see as He wants us to see.