

Character Study: Saul

Part 1 – Saul Becomes Israel’s First King

I Samuel 9-10

What’s happening?

- Saul was the son of Kish, an influential man in Israel. Saul was very handsome and taller than any of the other Israelites. (9:1-2)
- Saul was sent by his father to search the country-side looking for some donkeys that had run off. Unable to locate them, Saul and his companions went to a nearby city in hopes of asking the prophet Samuel for some direction. (9:3-10)
- The Lord had told Samuel that a person would be coming to him that day whom Samuel was to make king over Israel. When Saul arrived, God told Samuel that he was the man. (This occurred at a time when the Israelites desired a king in order to be like the other nations.) (9:11-17)
- Samuel invited Saul to a meal, telling him that the donkeys were safe. The next morning, Samuel told Saul that God was going to make him Israel’s king. Samuel prophesied specific events that would unfold on his way home, as well as how the Spirit of the Lord would come upon him to empower Him for the Lord’s work (note 10:2-8). The events came to pass, and the Lord gave Saul a “new heart.” (9:18-10:16)
- Samuel called the Israelites together and presented Saul as their new king. The people shouted, “Long live the king!” (10:17-27)

What’s God doing?

- > God did not intend for the Israelites to have a king at this time, but because of the people’s insistence and stubbornness, God allowed it.
- > God had given Saul a “new heart.” God called Saul to fulfill the position of a king, and He had now given him the passion to do just that.

What’s to learn?

→ God has His way of calling those who He wants to use for His service. God used circumstances in Saul’s life and the words of others to show Saul God wanted to use him for something special. May God be directing you to something special?

→ When God desires someone for His service, He will direct the desires of their heart toward a passion for doing what He wants them to do.