

שמואל א פרק ט

1 Samuel 9

We are introduced to Saul as the son of Kish, a Benjamite of valour. Saul is a good-looking young man and nobody is taller than he is. When the donkeys of Saul's father are lost, Saul is sent to look for them. Not being able to find them, he and his servant think to go ask Samuel and go towards where he is. Meanwhile...

15. And YHWH uncovered the ear (revealed to) Samuel one day before Saul was to come saying,

16. "This time tomorrow I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin and you shall anoint him as ruler over my nation, Israel, and he will save my nation from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my nation when they came, crying out to me."

17. And Samuel saw Saul, and YHWH answered him, "Behold, it is the man that I said to you, 'this one shall restrain/rule my nation.'"

טו וַיְהִי הָיָה גָלְיָה אֶת־אֶזְנֵן שְׁמוּאֵל יוֹם אֶחָד
לִפְנֵי בּוֹא־שָׂאוּל לֵאמֹר:
טז כֵּעֵת ׀ מָחָר אֶשְׁלַח אֵלֶיךָ אִישׁ מִמָּאֲרָץ
בְּנֵימִן וּמִשְׁחָתוֹ לְנָגִיד עַל־עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת־עַמִּי מִיַּד פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי רָאִיתִי
אֶת־עַמִּי כִּי בָאָה צָעֲקוֹתוֹ אֵלַי:
יז וַשְׁמוּאֵל רָאָה אֶת־שָׂאוּל וַיְהִי עֲנָהוּ
הִנֵּה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ זֶה יַעֲצֹר
בְּעַמִּי:

1. How had chapter 8, the chapter directly before this one, ended? What had Samuel done? What had God instructed? How does the section work following 1 Samuel 8?
2. What is the purpose of the king here? What language is used to describe the king?
3. What is Samuel's role here?

18. And Saul approached Samuel inside of the gate, and he said, "Tell please to me, where is the house of the seer?"

19. And Samuel answered Saul and he said, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, and y'all will eat with me today, and I will send you out in the morning, and all that is in your heart, I will tell to you.

20. And about the donkeys that were lost to you, as of today, three days ago, don't place your heart [worry] about them for they have

יח וַיִּגַּשׁ שָׂאוּל אֶת־שְׁמוּאֵל בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׁעַר
וַיֹּאמֶר הַגִּידָה־נָא לִי אֵי־זֶה בֵּית הָרֹאֶה:
יט וַיַּעַן שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת־שָׂאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי
הָרֹאֶה עֲלֶיהָ לִפְנֵי הַבָּמָה וְאֶכְלֶתֶם עִמִּי
הַיּוֹם וְשִׁלַּחְתִּיךָ בַּבֹּקֶר וְכָל אֲשֶׁר בְּלִבְבְּךָ
אֶגִּיד לָךְ:

כ וְלֹאֲתַנּוֹת הָאֲבָדוֹת לָךְ הַיּוֹם שְׁלַשֶׁת
הַיָּמִים אֶל־תִּשָּׂם אֶת־לִבְּךָ לָהֶם כִּי נִמְצְאוּ

been found. And to whom is all the desire/desirable things of Israel? Is it not for you and for all the house of your father?"

וְלִמִּי כָּל-חֲמֻדַּת יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲלוֹא לָךְ וּלְכָל
בֵּית אָבִיךָ:

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1. What does Samuel tell Saul here? List each point Samuel makes. Why might these be what he communicates with Saul? What might he be trying to achieve?

21. And Saul answered and he said, "Am I not a Benjaminite, from the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the youngest of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? And why did you say to me such a thing?"

כֹּא וַיַּעַן שָׁאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלוֹא בֶן-יְמִינִי אָנֹכִי
מִקְטַנֵּי שְׁבִטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּמִשְׁפַּחְתִּי הַצְעֵרָה
מִכָּל-מִשְׁפָּחוֹת שְׁבִטֵי בְנֵימִן וְלָמָּה דִּבַּרְתָּ
אַלִּי כַּדָּבָר הַזֶּה:

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1. What might Saul's tone be here? What might he be trying to say to Samuel? Think of a few possibilities for different tones and how that affects the message.

1 Samuel 9:22-27

Samuel invites Saul to feast with him and his guests, placing Saul in the place of honor and feeding him the best cuts. Samuel arranges to speak to Saul in private the next day...

שמואל א פרק י

1 Samuel 10

1. And Samuel took the flask of oil and he poured it on his head and he kissed him. And he said, "Is it not that YHWH has anointed you over his inheritance as ruler?"

א וַיִּקַּח שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת-כַּף הַשֶּׁמֶן וַיִּצֹק
עַל-רֹאשׁוֹ וַיִּשָּׁקֵהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלוֹא
כִּי-מִשְׁחָהּ יְהוָה עַל-גִּחְלָתוֹ לְנֶגִיד:

1. What is happening here? Have we seen anointing in connection with kingship before? What might the purpose of anointing be? What might the purpose of the kiss be? Why might this ceremony be happening in private?

2. When you go today from me, you will find two men by the tomb of Rachel at the border of Benjamin in Zelzach. And they will say to you, ‘We found the donkeys that you went to seek. And behold, your father has left off from the matter of the donkeys, and he is worrying about y’all, saying, ‘What will I do about my son?’”

3. And you will pass on from there and onwards and you will come to the Terebinth of Tabor, and there will find you three men going up to the Elohim to Beth El, one carrying three loaves of bread, and one carrying a skin of wine.

4. And they will ask after your well-being, and they will give to you two breads and you will take them from their hand.

ב בְּלֶכְתְּךָ הַיּוֹם מֵעַמְדִי וּמִצֵּאתִי שְׁנֵי
אֲנָשִׁים עִם־קִבְרַת רָחֵל בְּגִבּוֹל בִּנְיָמִן
בְּצֶלְזַח וְאָמְרוּ אֵלַיךְ נִמְצְאוּ הָאֲתָנוֹת
אֲשֶׁר הָלַכְתָּ לְבָקֵשׁ וְהִנֵּה נָטַשׁ אָבִיךָ
אֶת־דְּבָרֵי הָאֲתָנוֹת וְדָאָג לָכֶם לֵאמֹר מָה
אֶעֱשֶׂה לְבָנִי:
ג וְחָלַפְתָּ מִשָּׁם וְהָלַאָה וּבָאתָ עַד־אֵלּוֹן
תְּבוֹר וּמִצֵּאוֹךְ נָשָׂא שְׁלֹשָׁה אֲנָשִׁים עֲלֵימִם
אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים בֵּית־אֵל אֶחָד נִשְׂא וְשְׁלֹשָׁה
גִּדִּים וְאֶחָד נִשְׂא שְׁלֹשֶׁת כֶּכָרֹת לֶחֶם
וְאֶחָד נִשְׂא גִבְל־יֵינִין:
ד וְשָׁאֲלֵי לָהּ לְשָׁלוֹם וְנָתַנּוּ לָהּ שְׁתֵּי־לֶחֶם
וְלִקְחָתָ מֵיָדָם:

1. Why might exchange of food be important here? Why might these be the signs Samuel gives to Saul? How might they be connected to the ways we’ve read kingship so far?

5. After this, you will come to the hill of the Elohim that there is the garrison of the Philistines. And it will be when you come there to the city, you will encounter a band of prophets going down from the high place, and before them, stings, and tamborine, and flute, and harp, and they will be prophesying.

6. And will come mightily upon you the spirit of YHWH, and you will prophesize with them, and you will be changed to be a different man.

7. And it will be that when these signs come upon you, do for yourself that which you find in your hand because the Elohim is with you.

ה אַחֲרַי כֵּן תָּבוֹא גִבְעַת הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר־נָשָׂא
נֶצְבִי פְלִשְׁתִּים וַיְהִי כְּבָאֲךָ שָׁם הָעִיר
וּפָגַעְתָּ חֶבֶל גְּבָאִים יְרֵדִים מִהַבְּמָה
וּלְפָנֵיהֶם גִּבְל וְתֹרֶף וְחֻלָּל וְכִנּוֹר וְהָמָה
מִתְנַבְּאִים:
ו וַיֵּלְחָה עָלֶיךָ רוּחַ יְהוָה וְהִתְנַבֵּיתָ עִמָּם
וְנִהְפַכְתָּ לְאִישׁ אֲחֵר:
ז וְהָיָה כִּי תִבְאִינָה (תְּבֹאנָה) הָאֲתָנוֹת
הָאֵלֶּה לָּךְ עֲשֵׂה לָּךְ אֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא יָדְךָ כִּי
הָאֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ:

1. What signs are given here? How might they be connected to kingship? What seems to be the relationship between kingship and prophecy? What sort of prophecy is described here?
2. What might be meant by “you will be changed to be a different man”?

8. And you will go down before me to Gilgal, and behold I will go down to you to raise up burnt offerings, to sacrifice the peace offerings. For seven days you shall wait until my coming to you, and I will let you know that which you will do.”

9. And it was when he turned his shoulder to go from Samuel that Elohim changed for him his heart to a different heart. And all these signs came (to be) on that day.

ח וַיֵּרְדָּתָּ לִפְנֵי הַגִּלְגָּל וְהִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי יֹרֵד
אֵלֶיךָ לְהַעֲלֹת עֹלֹת לְזִבְחִי שְׁלָמִים
שִׁבְעַת יָמִים תִּוָּחַל עַד-בּוֹאִי אֵלֶיךָ
וְהוֹדַעְתִּי לְךָ אֵת אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה:
ט וְהָיָה כִּהְפַנְתּוֹ שִׁכְמוֹ לָלֶכֶת מִעִם שָׁמוּאֵל
וַיִּהְיֶה-לּוֹ אֱלֹהִים לֵב אֲחֵר וַיָּבֹאוּ
כָּל-הָאֵתוֹת הָאֵלֶּה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא:

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1. What might this ceremony that is described in verse 8 be? What might the purpose be? What is Samuel's role and what is Saul's role?
2. What might be the meaning of his change of heart? (In the Tanakh, the heart is the thinking organ, as we think of the brain today.) Why might Elohim be the one who causes it? Why might it happen when he leaves Samuel? How might it be connected to his ability to be a king?

1 Samuel 9:10-16

Saul prophesizes in the midst of a band of prophets, nation asks “Is also Saul among the prophets?” Saul runs into his uncle and does not tell him that he has been anointed as king.

17. And Samuel summoned the nation to YHWH at Mizpah.

18. And he said to the children of Israel:

יז וַיִּצְעַק שָׁמוּאֵל אֶת-הָעָם אֶל-יְהוָה
הַמִּצְפָּה:
יח וַיֹּאמֶר | אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

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1. What was Samuel's last interaction with the whole nation? What might you expect his attitude to be now?
2. Saul has already been anointed as king. What seems to be Samuel's role in Saul's kingship?

“Thus said YHWH Elohim of Israel, ‘I myself raised up Israel from Egypt, and I delivered y’all from the hand of Egypt and from the hand of all the kingdoms which oppress y’all.’

כ-אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנֹכִי
הָעֵלִיתִי אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם וְאֶצִּיל

19. And y'all yourselves today have rejected y'all's Elohim, he who saved y'all from all of y'all's adversities and troubles. And y'all said to him, 'But place a king over us.' And now, present yourselves before YHWH, by y'all's tribes and by y'all's thousands (clans.)

אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרִים וּמִיַּד כָּל-הַמְּלָכֹת
הִלַּחְצִים אֶתְכֶם:
י וְאַתֶּם הַיּוֹם מְאַסְתֶּם אֶת-אֱלֹהֵיכֶם
אֲשֶׁר-הוּא מוֹשִׁיעַ לָכֶם מִכָּל-רָעוֹתֵיכֶם
וְצִרְתִּיכֶם וְתֹאמְרוּ לוֹ כִּי-מֶלֶךְ תַּעֲשִׂים
עָלֵינוּ וְעַתָּה הִתִּיצְבוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה
לְשִׁבְטֵיכֶם וּלְאֻלְפֵיכֶם:

1. How does Samuel's speech here compare to his speech in 1 Samuel 8?

20. And Samuel caused all the tribes of Israel to come near and the tribe of Benjamin was taken.

21. And he caused to come near the tribe of Benjamin by their families, and the family of Matri was taken. And Saul, son of Kish, was taken and they sought him and he was not found.

22. And they asked additionally of YHWH, "Has come hither an additional man?"

כ וַיִּקְרַב שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת כָּל-שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיִּלְכְּדוּ יָעֻב בְּנִימִן:
כא וַיִּקְרַב אֶת-שִׁבְט בְּנִימִן לְמִשְׁפַּחָתוֹ
וַתִּלְכְּדוּ מִשְׁפַּחַת הַמַּטְרִי וַיִּלְכְּדוּ שְׁאוּל
בֶּן-לִישׁ וַיִּבְקְשׁוּהוּ וְלֹא נִמְצָא:
כב וַיִּשְׁאַל-וַיֹּאמֶר בְּיְהוָה הֲבֵא עוֹד הֶלֶם
אִישׁ

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1. How is the choosing happening here? Who is doing the choosing? What does it remind you of? How does this compare to the choosing of a king in Deuteronomy 17?

And YHWH said, "Behold he is hidden among the vessels."

23. And they ran and they took him from there and he took his stand in the midst of the nation. And he was taller than all the nation, from his shoulders upward.

24. And Samuel said to all the nation, "Have y'all seen he whom YHWH has chosen, for there is no one like him among all the nation." And all the nation raised a shout and they said, "Long live the king!"

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הִנֵּה-הוּא נִחְבֵּא אֶל-הַכֵּלִים:
כג וַיָּרְצוּ וַיִּקְחֵהוּ מִשָּׁם וַיִּתִּיצֵב בְּתוֹךְ הָעָם
וַיִּגְבֶּה מִכָּל-הָעָם מִשְׁכְּמוֹ וּמַעְלָה:
כד וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל-כָּל-הָעָם הֲרֵאִיתֶם
אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר-בּוֹ יְהוָה כִּי אֵין כָּמֹהוּ
בְּכָל-הָעָם וַיִּרְעוּ כָל-הָעָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ יְחִי
הַמֶּלֶךְ:

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1. What is God's role here? What is Saul's role? What is the people's role?
2. How does Samuel commend Saul to the nation? Is his language here reminiscent of anything? How does this commendation compare to the way a king is described in Deuteronomy 17?

25. And Samuel spoke to the nation the law of the kingdom, and he wrote it in the book, and he laid it before YHWH. And Samuel sent away all the nation, each man to his house. 26. And also Saul went to his house in Gibeah, and with him went the men of valour whose hearts Elohim had touched.	כֹּה וַיִּדְבֹּר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל-הָעָם אֵת מִשְׁפָּט הַמֶּלֶכְיָה וַיִּכְתֹּב בַּסֵּפֶר וַיִּנַּח לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁלַח שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת-כָּל-הָעָם אִישׁ לְבֵיתוֹ: כִּי וְגַם-שְׂאוּל הָלַךְ לְבֵיתוֹ גִּבְעָתָה וַיֵּלְכוּ עִמּוֹ הַחִיִּל אֲשֶׁר-נָגַע אֱלֹהִים בְּלִבָּם:
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1. What might be meant by the law of the kingdom? Think of a few possibilities.
2. What is Samuel's role here? Why might he be the one who does the writing? What might the purpose of the writing be?
3. Why might Saul go home? Who are these people who go after him?

27. And the sons of worthlessness (worthless people) said, "How can this save us?" And they despised him and they did not bring to him tribute, and he kept silent/and it was like plowing.	כִּי וּבָנֵי בְלִיעַל אָמְרוּ מִה-יִשְׁעֵנוּ זֶה וַיִּבְזְאוּ וְלֹא-הִבִּיאוּ לוֹ מִנְחָה וַיְהִי כַמְחָרִישׁ:
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1. What does the narrator seem to think about Saul as king?
2. Why might people have doubts about Saul's abilities? What do they need saving from?
3. Why might Saul not respond?

1 Samuel 11

Facing an Ammonite threat, the people turn to Saul for help. The spirit of God comes over Saul, he gathers all the people of Israel, and they defeat the Ammonites. The people then want to kill those who had earlier questioned Saul's right to be king, but Saul refuses to let that happen. Then...

14. And Samuel said to the nation, “Let us go to Gilgal so that we can renew there the monarchy.”

15. And all the nation went to Gilgal and they made Saul king there before YHWH in Gilgal, and they sacrificed there peace offerings before YHWH, and there Saul and all the men of Israel were very very happy.

יָד וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל-הָעָם לָכוּ וְנִלְכָּה
הַגִּלְגָל וְנִחַדְשׁ שָׁם הַמְּלֹכָה:
טו וַיֵּלְכוּ כָל-הָעָם הַגִּלְגָל וַיַּמְלִכוּ שָׁם
אֶת-שָׁאוּל לִפְנֵי יְהוָה בְּגִלְגָל וַיִּזְבְּחוּ-זָבָח
שָׁלָמִים לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיִּשְׂמַח שָׁם
שָׁאוּל וְכָל-אֲנָשֵׁי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד-מְאֹד:

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1. Why might the monarchy need renewing? What might it mean to renew the monarchy? What happens in order to renew the monarchy?
2. This is the first time Saul has been called “king.” Before, he had been referred to as נגיד, ruler. Why might he be king now?
3. How does this order of becoming king compare to the order described in Deuteronomy 17?

1 Samuel 12

Samuel reiterates to the nation that he has served them well, never doing anything he ought not do. Samuel threatens to call rain down to destroy the people's harvest. The people immediately acknowledge the evil they have done in asking for a king, and Samuel relents. He then urges the nation to fear and serve God so that they and their new king will be successful, because if not, they and their new king will be destroyed.

1 Samuel 13-14

Saul fights Israel's battles.

1 Samuel 15

Samuel tells Saul to kill all the people and animals of Amalek, the evil nation who struck Israel in the wilderness. But Saul and the people take pity on the king of Amalek and on some livestock, and they do not immediately kill them. God regrets that God had made Saul king over Israel, and Samuel tells Saul that the kingdom will be torn away from him and given to someone else.