

Saul Chosen King

MEMORY VERSE: "but they have rejected me as their king." 1 Samuel 8:7

SCRIPTURES: 1 Samuel 8 – 10

AIM: Because of sin, our fleshly heart wants to reject God

A king is someone who watches over his people. He gives the people a sense of identity and unity. He leads them into battle. He sees that justice is administered. Israel had the best King ever – God the Creator – yet because of sin in their hearts, they rejected God's Kingship, and sought after a human king instead. It happened this way...

One day, after Samuel had been judge of Israel for many years, the elders of Israel came to Samuel. "You are getting old now, Samuel, and there is no one else like you to look after the people." (you see, Samuel's sons had become bad judges). "We want a king, just like all the other nations."

Samuel was very upset, so he talked to God about the Israelites wanting a king. God said, "Don't feel bad, Samuel. It isn't you they are rejecting. It is me who they have turned away from." Then God told Samuel to let them have a king, but to warn them that it wouldn't end up well for the people. So Samuel gave the people God's message that instead of having a king that would make them safe and secure (as God had done), their earthly king would actually end up taking more from them, than he would give.

But the Israelites still said, "We want a king!" So God allowed that to happen. He instructed Samuel to choose for king a man from Benjamin, who God told Samuel would come visit Samuel the next day.

That next day, a man named Saul, was out looking for his father's donkeys. He and his servant walked many miles searching for them. When Saul was ready to give up, his servant said, "I just thought of something. There is a prophet who lives in a city near here. Let's go ask him if he can tell us where the donkeys are."

When Samuel saw Saul, God said to him, "This is man you are to pick as king"

Saul walked right up to Samuel. "Can you tell me where the prophet's house is?" he asked. Samuel answered, "I am the man you are looking for. Come and have a meal with me. And don't worry about the donkeys that were lost. They have been found." While Saul looked at him in astonishment, Samuel said, "You are the man the people of Israel have been wanting. You are to be their King."

The next morning when the men started to leave for home, Samuel walked with them. He told Saul to send servant on ahead. Then Samuel took a bottle of oil poured it over Saul's head. He said, "I am doing because God has chosen you. You are to be the king of His people."

Some days later Samuel called all the people together. He reminded them of all God had done for Israel since He brought them out of Egypt, yet despite God's faithfulness and protection, the people rejected Him and wanted a human king instead.

One by one all the tribes of Israel came forward. The tribe of Benjamin was chosen, then the family of Kish and finally Saul's name was called.

"Saul! Saul!" cried his friends, but he didn't answer. The people began looking for him and at last they found him. He was hiding in the coat closet! Led by an excited group to Samuel, Saul turned to face the crowd, just as Samuel said, "See the man whom God has chosen.

"Long live the King," everyone shouted.

The Israelites were pleased to have Saul as their king, but just as Samuel had told them, they had a lot trouble that they brought upon themselves all the trouble came because they wanted be like the other nations around them.

God knows that all people have sin in their hearts, and therefore no human could be a truly good king. That's why God had another plan in mind to establish a one-and-for-all King who would cure people of their sin and rebellion – Jesus!