### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 9

1Well, there was a man from the sons of BenJamin named Kish (son of ZerOr, the grandson of BechOrath, and the great-grandson of AphiJAh, of BenJamin), and he was very strong. 2He had a son named Saul, who was very tall and handsome… None among the sons of IsraEl were taller, for he stood head and shoulders above everyone else in the land.  
  
3Well, Saul’s father Kish had lost two burros, so he said to Saul:  
  
 ‘Take one of the servants with you and go look for my burros.’  
  
4Then Saul traveled throughout the hills of Ephraim and the land of ShaliSha [searching for them], but he couldn’t find them.  
  
5Well, when they got to Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was traveling with him:  
  
 ‘Come on, let’s just go back to my father [and tell him that we couldn’t find] the burros, because he’s probably worried about us.’  
  
6But his servant said:  
  
 ‘Look, there’s a man of God in this city... He’s an honorable man, and whatever he says will happen, will happen.  
  
 ‘So, let’s go to him and ask which way we should travel.’  
  
7And Saul replied:  
  
 ‘Okay, let’s go there.  
  
 ‘However, what do we have with us that we can offer to this man of God, since even the loaves of bread that we were carrying are gone?’  
  
8And the servant said:  
  
 ‘I’ve been carrying a coin in my hand. We can give it to the man of God, and then he’ll show us the way.’  
  
  
9Well, in IsraEl back then, whenever people wanted to ask something of God, they’d say:  
  
 ‘Let’s go ask the seer.’  
  
Because the people used to call the prophets ‘seers.’  
  
10So Saul said to his servant:  
  
 ‘What you’ve suggested is a good idea. Come on, let’s go there.’  
  
And they went to the city where the man of God lived.  
  
  
11Then as they were going up to the city, they noticed some young women who were coming out to draw water, and they asked if the seer was there.  
  
12And they replied:  
  
 ‘Yes, he is. Look, he’s just up ahead!  
  
 ‘But you’d better hurry, because he’s going to the house of worship to offer sacrifices for the people... 13As you enter the city, you’ll find him getting ready to go there for a meal, and the people won’t start their meal until he blesses the sacrifice.  
  
 ‘But after he does that, the people will [sit down to] eat.  
  
 ‘So, go on, because this may be the only day you can find him!’  
  
14Well, they entered the city, and as they were traveling towards its center, they saw SamuEl coming to meet them, since he was on his way to the place of worship. 15However, Jehovah had opened the ears of SamuEl [on the previous day] and told him:  
  
 16‘At this time tomorrow, I’ll send a man from the land of BenJamin to you. You must anoint him to be the ruler over My people IsraEl, and he will save My people from the hands of the Philistines… For I’ve watched their humiliation [long enough], and I’ve heard them calling out to Me.’  
  
17So when SamuEl noticed Saul, Jehovah said to him:  
  
 ‘Look, this is the man I was telling you about.  
  
 ‘He will rule My people.’  
  
18Meanwhile, Saul had walked up to SamuEl there in the center of the city to ask where the seer lives.  
  
19And SamuEl told him:  
  
 ‘That’s me!  
  
 ‘Now, come with me to the place of worship and eat with us today. Then in the morning, I’ll show you everything that’s in your heart…  
  
 20‘And I’ll also tell you where those burros are that you’ve been searching for over the past three days! Don’t let your heart be concerned about them, because they’ve been found!  
  
 ‘And what could be more beautiful among the things of IsraEl than you and the house of your father?’  
  
21Well at that, Saul replied:  
  
 ‘I’m just a man of the sons of BenJamin, one of the smallest of the tribes of IsraEl, and my family is the least of all the families of BenJamin!  
  
 ‘So, why have you spoken to me that way?’  
  
22Then SamuEl took Saul and his servant along with him to the place where they’d eat, and he called for them to sit at the head of the table before the 30 men who were there.  
  
23And he told the cook:  
  
 ‘Give him the portion [of the meat] that I gave to you and asked you to set aside.’  
  
24So the cook brought out a whole hindquarter and placed it before Saul.  
  
And SamuEl said:  
  
 ‘Look, we’ve set what’s left over before you. Eat it… Since this is the proof that you’ve been placed over the people, you should pull off a piece!’  
  
So Saul ate with SamuEl that day, 25and when he returned to the city from the place of worship, the [people] spread some carpets on the roof for Saul, where he bedded down.  
  
  
26Then at dawn the following morning, SamuEl called up to the roof for Saul, and said:  
  
 ‘Get up, for I’m going to send you on now.’  
  
So Saul got up and went outside to meet SamuEl.  
  
27Then, as they were walking from the city into the fields, SamuEl said to Saul:  
  
 ‘Tell the young man to walk on ahead of us. Then you must stop here so you can hear the Word of The God!’