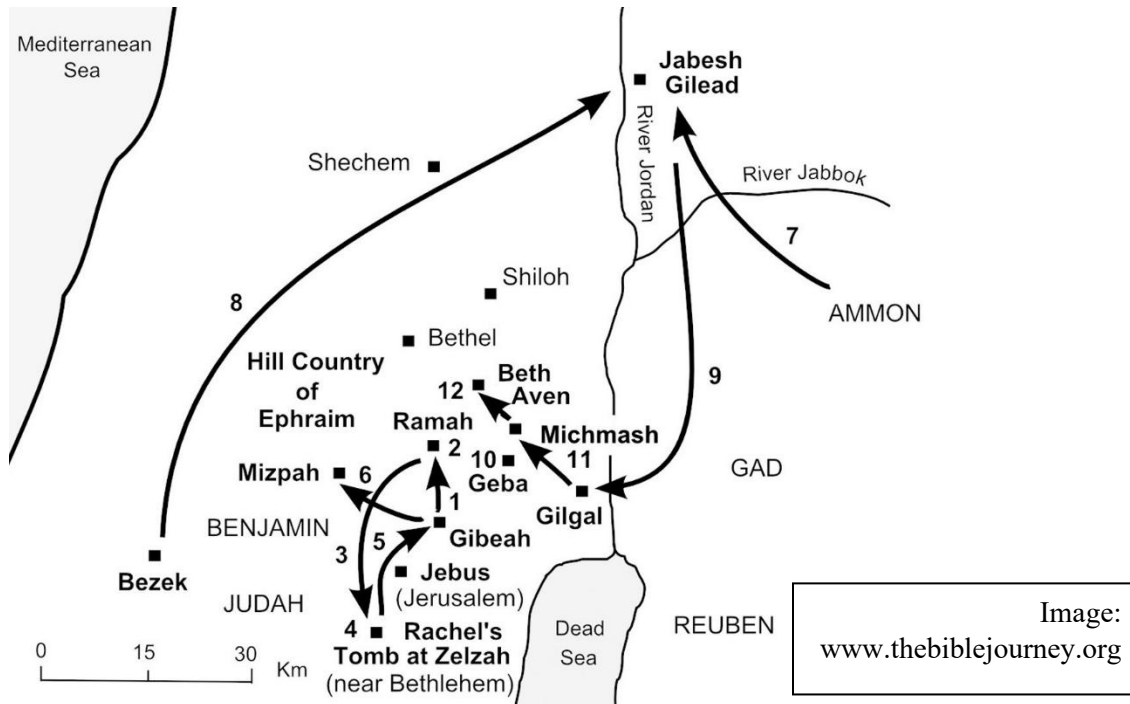


Questions

1. What worldly advantages did Saul have?
2. How did Saul and Samuel meet?
3. Why was Saul surprised at what Samuel's said about him (1 Sam. 9:18-21)? Have we seen a reaction like this before when someone was chosen by God for a leadership role?
4. Briefly describe the anointing ceremony.
5. What were the reactions to Samuel's announcement that Saul was chosen to be king?
6. Who threatened Jabesh? What came upon Saul when he heard the news? How did Saul respond? What was the outcome?
7. What happened to the people who had insulted Saul? (1 Sam. 10:27; 11:12-13)
8. What kind of leader had Samuel been all his life? (1 Sam. 12:1-5)
9. Why did Samuel give the people a brief overview of Israel's history in his farewell address?
10. What did Samuel say he would continue to do for Israel? (1 Sam. 12:19-23)
11. Israel had believed that getting a king would bring them lasting security. What did Samuel say was the real key to their security? If Israel turned away from God, what would happen to the nation and its king?



1. In his old age, Samuel appoints his sons Joel and Abijah to be 'Judges' at Beersheba. But they are dishonest men, so the people gather at Ramah and plead with Samuel for a strong king "like all the other nations" (1 Sam 8:1-5) Samuel - reluctant at first - begins his search for a suitable leader. In the spring, Saul – an impressive looking forty-year-old – goes in search of his father's donkeys, from Gibeah (in Benjamin) to Shalishah, Shaalim and Zuph (1 Sam 9:1-13).
2. At Ramah, Saul and his father's servant consult Samuel about the missing donkeys. Samuel immediately recognises the young man as God's appointed leader, and anoints Saul as King of Israel (1 Sam 9:14-10:1).
3. Samuel tells Saul to go to Rachel's tomb at Zelzah near Bethlehem where two men will tell him that the donkeys have been found (1 Sam 10:2-8).
4. As Saul turns to leave, he becomes a new person as the Spirit of God comes upon him in power (1 Sam 10:9).
5. When he arrives home at Gibeah, Saul begins prophesying as he joins a group of prophets singing and dancing (1 Sam 10:10-16).
6. Samuel calls the people together and publicly proclaims Saul king at Mizpah (1 Sam 10:17-27).
7. A month later, King Nahash of Ammon besieges Jabesh Gilead (1 Sam 11:1-7).
8. Saul rallies the Israelite forces at Bezek and defeats the Ammonites at Jabesh (1 Sam 11:8-11).
9. Saul is confirmed as king at Gilgal (1 Sam 11:12-15).
10. Saul prepares to fight the Philistines by luring them into the hill country of Ephraim, north of Jebus (Jerusalem). In an act of defiance, Saul's son Jonathan demolishes the Philistine 'pillar' (Hebrew, 'netsib', meaning a 'pillar' or standing stone erected to indicate Philistine overlordship of the area) at Geba (1 Sam 13:1-7).
11. Meanwhile, Saul summons the men of Israel to join him at Gilgal. The Philistines hear that Jonathan has demolished the pillar and see this as a challenge to their authority. They assemble a huge army of soldiers and head for the Michmash Pass leading down to Gilgal. Jonathan secretly attacks and kills twenty Philistines at Michmash Pass. As a result, the Philistines are thrown into panic (1 Sam 14:1-14).
12. Jonathan's forces at Geba join battle at Michmash and beat the Philistines, who are in total confusion. They pursue them along the floor of the valley all the way to Beth Aven (1 Sam 14:15-23). – Slide 1