

## THAT I MAY SHOW THEE THE WORD OF GOD

### 1 SAMUEL 9:1 – 10:27

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~ Do you believe you are a good judge of character? Well, our Spiritual Safari meets the first king of Israel in this report and his name is Saul, the son of Kish. From all outward appearances Saul was likely the finest specimen of a man that could have been found in all the land at that time. If we ended our study of King Saul with this report, many of us would form a precisely incorrect conclusion about this man. Physically, Saul was very handsome, and he looked like a king. His initial inward actions when he first met Samuel seemed to match his outward countenance, too. Unfortunately, we won't get the whole story in this report about Saul. Of course, Saul isn't a king when we first meet him; and I do not consider him a king at heart by any means at any time in Scripture – even though he was given the title. The people didn't choose Saul according to character or ability; all they saw was the outward facade.

One of the most dangerous things we have today is the television. The man that will ultimately control any country is a man that makes a good television appearance. We choose politicians based on their looks and demeanor and the way they talk – let's be real. The substance of their speech is really insignificant to most people. Mankind has no ability to look into the hearts of the men that present so well because they have no Godly judgment or discernment of their own. If the television were a spiritual x-ray machine, the picture would be a frightful and fatal disease, I assure you of that. Well, Saul could have been a TV or movie star, for sure. He looked the part, and he could play the part, too!

Saul is Satan's man from the beginning; make no mistake about that. Saul will end up being another one of those strange individuals we have met, and will meet, in the Word of God on this safari; he is just an actor playing a part. It can be extremely difficult to interpret and understand this type of man. We met Balaam in Numbers – one of just such individuals. Balaam seemed to strobe between darkness and light. Judas was another man we met in the Gospel accounts, and he was almost impossible to figure out.

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Paul also made mention of a man named Demas who had forsaken him; having loved this present world. I have no way to interpret Demas at all. It would be impossible to give a dogmatic statement as to Demas' salvation status. There will be other strange men that move across our pages of Scripture who stand in semi-darkness – or abject darkness – also. It seems they come out in light but, like a groundhog, they see their shadow and move right back into darkness....

## IX

***1 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.***

~ You will recall from Genesis how Benjamin was the favorite son of Jacob; and Benjamin's mother had died during childbirth. She asked that he be named Ben-oni. Ben-oni means, 'son of my sorrow.' Jacob said "no" to that request and named him Benjamin, which means 'son at my right hand.' See, Jacob leaned heavily on Benjamin! Remember, the other sons had been sent home from Egypt by Joseph to advise Jacob they were not welcome to return for food unless they brought Benjamin with them. Jacob refused, at first; until the food ran out. Then, Jacob had no choice but to agree. Jacob said that if anything happened to Benjamin it would kill him. If you read that account correctly, you'll see Judah ended up pleading for Benjamin in Egypt. Interestingly, the tribe of Benjamin is always under the shadow of the tribe of Judah while they are in the land, too. Saul's father is from the tribe of Benjamin, and that's the tribe from which Israel receives their first king....

***2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.***

***3 And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.***

~ God has a great sense of humor. You just can't miss it in the Word of God if you have any. See, the children of Israel were looking for a king. So, we see Saul looking for his father's asses while the asses of Israel were looking for a king. They're made for each other. Well, they're going to get together, friends! God has to smile at this because, quite frankly, it's funny. This is the Lord's blistering indictment of the entire human race, make no mistake. So, now Saul goes on a wild goose chase throughout the country looking for runaway animals....

***4 And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.***

***5 And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us.***

***6 And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.***

***7 Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?***

***8 And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.***

***9 (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)***

~ Here, we have a little note inserted by the Holy Spirit and it is very helpful. The reason for the change from "seer" to "prophet" is that the seer in that day had begun dealing in necromancy and literal witchcraft; so,

another designation was given for the genuine man of the True and Living God. This truly makes Samuel the first in the order of prophets in Israel; although Moses was a prophet, and it's likely Joshua was, also – but they were never designated as such. Samuel is the first man to officially hold the title of prophet....

***10 Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was.***

***11 And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?***

***12 And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:***

***13 As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.***

***14 And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out and met them, as he went to go up to the high place.***

***15 Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,***

~ Many people wonder how God communicated with his man on earth in the Old Testament. Well, Jesus saith, "he who has an ear let him hear." It comes from the Word of God – which is where Samuel heard God speak in his ear, my beloved. I believe the Bible when it says the Lord spake, because it means the Lord spoke directly to the man by His Spirit through His Word. That's how God did it in that day – and that's how God does it as you read this report and I type it. That's how Samuel heard. Communication can only come by word, friends; the WORDS of Scripture are inspired – not

thoughts – WORDS. We can only receive an inkling of His spiritual speaking at a place like this in the Bible....

***16 To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.***

~ Many times, God answers our requests when it is not the best thing for us. That should teach us to be very careful about what we ask God for. Sometimes we continue to cry out to the Lord, so He grants our request. Remember, in the wilderness, Israel tired of the manna and cried out for meat; well, they got meat – until it came out their nostrils! God also sent “leanness to their souls” you will recall. That’s not good. That’s the reason prayer should be in the Name of Christ Jesus and ALSO with a caveat that “Thy will be done!” Ask for whatever you want to ask for, friends; just make sure the Father wants that for your life, too.

I have had many discussions about this subject, and there are some people who think they are simply going to live their lives their own way, in their own desires, with God coming behind them to clean up the mess and bless whatever it is they have set their heart to. Well, you just might succeed at first; but it won’t be to your good. When God sends leanness of our soul – the only possible result is Christian Tragedy. Whatever we do must be for His glory – not ours. All requests must hinge on this matter if we desire to be in the direct will of God. Here, God is going to grant them their request for a king; even after expressly forbidding them from subjecting themselves to an earthly man as their ruler. Saul impressed Samuel very much, too, let’s be clear about that. We shall see that Samuel regarded Saul VERY highly; and we’ll see Samuel regret it when Saul disobeys the Lord and Samuel is forced to remove him from the kingship....

***17 And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! This same shall reign over my people.***

***18 Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.***

**19 And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.**

**20 And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?**

~ This reveals Saul was not God's chosen man, by any means. He was the people's choice – not the Lord's, and they were only seeing the outer shell of a man with a deeply flawed heart. As we read on, Saul sounds humble enough. He almost sounds like Gideon. Gideon said *almost* the same thing to the Angel of the Lord, you may recall from Judges. Gideon was from the smallest tribe; his family was also the smallest family. Gideon was the smallest man in the family, too. Well, Gideon was genuinely and honestly telling the truth in humility. Remember, Gideon was frightened to death to begin with; he was a total coward, as we saw in Judges. However, Saul has no reason to be a coward. Israel wasn't fighting anyone; the Philistines were not an immediate threat. The people were cheering for him like a Hollywood celebrity. Saul has been out wandering the land looking for lost assets! Those assets have been returned to his father at this time, so his mission is accomplished, without him doing anything. As this unfolds, we'll see the very definite false humility in Saul quickly turn to pride; and then his jealousy will rear its ugly head, and morph into hatred and murder. I am sure Saul felt more than qualified, competent and capable of being King of Israel....

**21 And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?**

**22 And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons.**

~ This is the way men are placed in office today. Yes, we have elections, but they are mostly a show of process to instill confidence in the community. Candidly, the bottom line is: a vote means nothing. A very small group of very powerful men decide who will be our leaders today; and that holds true in all nations of the world. This is also the way preachers are chosen in churches. The same holds true for church officers, too. Honestly, it can be good, or it can be bad. The determining factor is the condition of the hearts of those being appointed and appointing. In this case – not so good! So, as we read on, we see the formality they went through....

***23 And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.***

***24 And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.***

***25 And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel had a conference with Saul upon the top of the house.***

***26 And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad.***

***27 And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.***

**X**

***1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?***

***2 When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?***

~ Of course, Saul is being lifted up in pride as his father worries about him going missing; and his father thinks he is in danger. Now, the anointing took place near the tomb of Rachel, in the land of the tribe of Benjamin; and that is very near Bethlehem. I find that very interesting and most important to note. So, after all of this, we see Saul returning home after being made king. Verse six raises a definite question of whether or not Saul was converted. Is that verse the proof of conversion? I am sure it is not a final proof, by any means. I don't think Saul was ever genuinely converted, personally. I know I sound very prejudiced against Saul – and I'll tell you why: there is a whole lot of his story yet to come! With the additional information we will receive in the next several reports, I can only conclude Saul was called – but never chosen by God....

***3 Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:***

***4 And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.***

***5 After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:***

***6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.***



~ Naturally, someone is going to argue that this passage says the Spirit of God came over Saul so he must have been converted. Well, it doesn't say that took place at this time, nor does it say he was made a new man. God may give him ANOTHER heart in verse nine, but it doesn't mean any permanent change occurred in Saul. I think he had two very definite personalities. Remember, the Spirit of God came upon Balaam, too. Later, we will be incontrovertibly warned against the doctrine of Balaam. God used several men who were most assuredly not converted. Judas is another example; the twelve – including Judas – were sent out. They ALL performed miracles. Well, Judas was not converted. See, friends, we have to actually study the Bible to discover these deep truths. You may withhold final judgment on Saul at this time if you want to. I have already made one; and I am sticking to it....

***7 And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.***

***8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.***

***9 And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.***

***10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.***

***11 And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?***

***12 And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets?***

**13 And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.**

**14 And Saul's uncle said unto him and to his servant, Whither went ye? And he said, To seek the asses: and when we saw that they were no where, we came to Samuel.**

**15 And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you.**

**16 And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.**

**17 And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh;**

**18 And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you:**

**19 And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.**

**20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken.**

**21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.**

**22 Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.**

***23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.***

***24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.***

***25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.***

***26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.***

***27 But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.***

~ Notice Saul turned his back on Samuel in verse nine. Even a prophet can be wrong, friends – as Nathan was wrong when he told David to build God a house; and Nathan had to go back later and tell David that he had prophesied incorrectly. There is no denying God is giving Saul an opportunity. God never withheld anything from him. Saul had no compunction about withholding information from his uncle in verse sixteen, though! Then, in verse nineteen, we see very clearly the reception of Saul as king was a blatant rejection of God! You need to make a very definite note in your mind here, because this will be critical to remember all the way through the account of Saul's life. In our next several reports, we'll continue examining the account of Saul; and we'll confirm our worst suspicions about him ~