

230726-4 1Sa 9, The LORD Sends Saul to Samuel–CThurman

When Samuel was old then he made his sons, Joel and Abiah judges in Beersheba, far to the south of his usual circuit, a circuit which was through central Canaan. But these sons were not like their father so that they perverted judgment to enrich themselves. Though Samuel's sons service was far into the south of Canaan the elders of Israel decided to meet with Samuel because they wanted a king like the other nations had. Samuel was displeased with this request because he understood that they had rejected his service to them as judge, a service which was for the most part he bore freely. Well, Samuel took this matter to the LORD in prayer, and the answer which the LORD gave in return was to do as they asked, and give them a king. They were not rejecting Samuel, but they were rejecting the LORD, that He should reign over them. These elders rejected the LORD system of government, a judicial system for a monarchy. So, the LORD directed Samuel to *protest solemnly* for rejecting the LORD's manner of government *and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them*. So then, Samuel lays before Israel what a monarchy will require of Israel. And the people refused to hear Samuel's voice and said '*we will have a king over us*'. The 9th chapter the LORD sends Israel's first king to meet Samuel.

This king shall be chosen out of the tribe of Benjamin.

As we studied through the book of Judges, you might have thought that the name of the tribe of Benjamin was mentioned frequently. That's because it was.

Number of times each tribe is mentioned:

Benjamin 41 – Ephraim 18 – Judah 17 – Dan 12 – Zebulun 7 –

Manasseh 6 – Naphtali 6 – Asher 3 – Reuben 2 – Simeon 2 – Gad 0

Chapter 9

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.

mighty man of valour (1Ki.11.28; 1Cor.12.28)

valiant men & mighty men of valour (2Chr.13.3; 17.16; 25.6)

Of this lineage there is nothing else given in the word of God. The lineage is simply stated as a matter of fact.

2 And he had a son, whose name [was] Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly:
– choice & good or handsome –

‘It would have been better had he been godly as well.’ *Spurgeon’s Devotional Bible*, Charles Spurgeon, Baker Book House Company, p.233

and [there was] not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he:
– no man among the sons of Israel [was] more handsome –

from his shoulders and upward [he was] higher than any of the people.
taller

higher, of the adj. גָּבוֹהַ, tss. *high* (hills), *height of* (his stature), *lofty* (eyes)

The verb גָּבַחַ, tss. *to be lifted up*, *to be exalted*, *to be of a height*, *to be proud*, *to be haughty*, *to be high*, *to be upward*, *to mount up* is also used to define Saul’s stature.

1Sa 10:23 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.

3 ¶ And the asses of Kish Saul’s father were lost.

An untold number of asses were lost. By the ensuing search to find these asses it is clear that these were valuable animals to any household.

And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.

... which Saul does for three days. (v.20)

Shalisha, might be the same as the city Baalshalisha, which is located on the river Kanah, which marks Ephraim's northern boundary and terminates Ephraim's boundary where Dan and Manasseh come together. However, John Gills points out another city by the same name.

'Shalisha; a tract in the tribe of Benjamin, so called from some illustrious person, prince, and duke of it; in it very probably was the place called Baalshalisha; 2Ki 4:42 and which perhaps is the same Jerom calls [x] Bethshalisha; and says there was a village of this name in the borders of Diospolis, almost fifteen miles distance from it to the north, in the Tamnitic country; though Bunting [y] says it was situated in Mount Ephraim, eight miles from Jerusalem to the northwest ...' *Exposition of the Old & New Testaments*, John Gill, The Baptist Standard Bearer, Inc. p.453

It does appear that the Shalisha under consideration is in the area of Gilgal. Then Saul would reasonably go to the next town named below.

but they found [them] not: then they passed through the land of Shalim,

Perhaps the same place where John the Baptist baptized in Jo.3.23.

Joh 3:23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

and [there they were] not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found [them] not.

The route then turns westward to Ephraim where Samuel resides.

5 [And] when they were come to the land of Zuph,

Zuph appears to be a place named for one of the kin of Samuel, a great, great, great grandfather.

1Sa 1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name [was] Elkanah, the son of

Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite ...

So they come to the neighborhood where is Samuel's residence in Ramah.

Saul said to his servant that [was] with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave [caring] forbear

leave (caring), of the verb לִיָּן, tss. to cease, to forbear, to unoccupy, to fail, to leave off.

for the asses, and take thought for us.
sorrow, become anxious, sorrowful

take thought, of the verb יָגֵן, tss. to think, to sorrow, to be afraid, to be careful; so, to be anxious.

6 And he said unto him, Behold now, [there is] in this city a man of God,
(the servant)

The city must be Ramah where Samuel moved to after the deaths of Eli and his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, and after the Philistines had taken the ark of the covenant.

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.
תִּגַּן
tell, declare,
expound (v.8, 19)

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,
sacks, pots, stuff

and [there is] not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?

present, תְּשׁוּבָה, a fem. noun that is only once in the OT; the verb שׁוּב, Is.57.9, *thou wentest*; Ez.27.25, *did sing of thee*. Is there the idea of 'trafficking' in this? So, to buy a favor.

8 And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand
there is found in my hand

the fourth part of a shekel of silver: [that] will I give to the man of God,
to tell us our way.

shew, declare, expound (v.6, 19)

To give us an idea of what a ¼ of a shekel would be in U.S. silver currency. The weight of silver for 1/4th a shekel would be the equivalent of 2.56 U.S. silver dollars.

A talent weighs 3,000 shekels. 100 shekels = 1/30th of a talent. (see note at Ex.38.26) 1/30th of a talent is estimated to be about 2 pounds. In silver it is the equivalence of 640 U.S. silver dollars. In this case 200 shekels of silver equals 1,280 U.S. silver dollars (a silver dollar weighs .05oz. each = 64oz. or four pounds of silver.)

Note at Ex.30.11-21 lesson:

the shekel of the sanctuary, sets the standard weight for the metals used in trade. There is a gerah, which is 1/20th of a shekel; a bekah is ½ a shekel, (Ex.38.26); a shekel; and a talent, which is 3,000 shekels (Ex.28.37).

...

talent	1	100 sockets weighing 1 talent
shekel	3,000	300,000
bekah	6,000	600,000
gerah	60,000	6,000,000

(cf. Gill – 1 talent weights about 60#. [could be 66#])

9 (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to **enquire** **of God,**

to seek, make inquisition,
to ask, to require

דָּרַשׁ

רֹאֵה

thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the

seer:

The one that considered, looks upon, foresees

for [he that is] now [called] a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)

the prophet of the day (today)

10 Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go.

Your matter is good, or
good is your word

So they went to see Samuel with their \$2.56. LOL. Of course this silver would have much more value than it has today. In the days of Elisha, when they had a 'blue light' sale, a measure of fine flour could sell for a shekel. (cf. 2Ki.7.16) A meal for a man?

So they went unto the city where the man of God [was].

Which city must be Ramah of Ephraim.

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:

an offering

sacrifice, קָרְבָּן, a masc. noun also tss. offering.

high place, מִזְבֵּחַ, a fem. noun also tss. waves, the heights.

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 against them, for to go up to the high place.

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

had told, of the verb הָגִיד, also tss. to reveal, to shew, to open, to advertise, to lead away captive, to uncover, to discover.

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
leader, chief governor

captain, נָגִיד, a masc. noun also tss. ruler, leader, chief governor, governor, prince.

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.

So, after their victory over the Philistines probably nearly 40 years earlier (cf. 1Sa.7.14) the Philistines began to afflict Israel again so that they are distressed and crying out for deliverance. Though the LORD and his government was rejected by Israel for a monarchy, He will give them a king raise to deliver Israel from Philistines oppression.

17 And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD עָנָה **said unto him,**
to answer, testify,
speak, witness, cry,

Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.
restrain in

shall reign, of the verb עָצַר, also tss. to restrain, to close up, to shut up, to recover, to retain, to stay.

To order the people so that they do not do as is pleasing everyone in their own eyes.

Jud 17:6 In those days [there was] no king in Israel, [but] every man did [that which was] right in his own eyes. (also Jud.21.15)

This was a very bad time in the history of early Israel. (Judges chs.17-21) Worshipping gods as they pleased, lying, deceiving, stealing, coveting, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and murder.

Good government orders its society to benefit the whole.

Ro 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil.

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,
send you away

and will tell thee all that [is] in thine heart.

shew, declare, expound (vss.6, 8)

The words, *and will tell thee all that is in thine heart*, or, answer any question that Saul might have of Samuel.

וַיִּשֶׁבֶט

20 And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set

to make, to put, to lay, to work, to appoint, to order, to dispose (v. 23, 24)

not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom [is] all the heart

As soon as the asses were found to be missing Kish sent his son with a servant to find them.

desire of Israel? [Is it] not on thee, and on all thy father's house?
pleasantness

desire, הַמְּדֵה, fem. noun also tss. pleasant, goodly, precious.

The desire of Israel is upon Saul. Israel's desire to have a king is answered in this man and his family. Saul's family will become involved in his administration.

21 And Saul answered and said, [Am] not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? least

of the smallest of, יְקָטָן, adj. also tss. younger, little, less, least, lesser.

and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin?

least, יָעָן, adj. also tss. younger, small, little.

wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

There is some truth to this, that Benjamin must have been the smallest the tribes of Israel. Some four hundred years earlier Israel was involved in civil war because of Benjamin's wickedness. (cf. Judges chs.19-21) About 600 men of Benjamin survived that conflict. It could be that such a selection of one from the least of the tribes would be uncontested by the other tribes of Israel.

*Jud.21.1 ¶ Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife.
2 And the people came to the house of God, and abode there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore;
3 And said, O LORD God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be to day one tribe lacking in Israel?*

saved, reserved preserved

unto this time, מוֹעֵד, a masc. noun also tss. *solemn feast, set feast, time appointed, season, solemn assembly, etc.*

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] communed with Saul upon the top of the house.

the top of the house, גַּג, a masc. noun also tss. top, roof, roof of the house, house top.

Evidently Samuel brought young Saul to his house and communed with him there in the cool of the evening upon the rooftop.

26 And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day,

early light, morning

the day, שַׁחַר, a masc. noun also tss. the morning, dayspring, light, rising.

that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying,

קוּם

Up,

Arise, rise up, stand

קוּם

that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad.

outside

abroad, חוּץ, a masc. noun also tss. outside, without.

The time had come for Saul to depart to his own place the next morning. Samuel calls for Saul to come up to him upon the roof and then the both of them leave the house.

27 [And] as they were going down to the end of the city,

edge, brink

the end, קֵצַהּ, masc. noun, also tss. quarter, border, edge, brink, brim, uttermost part, the outside.

Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but

עֲמַד כִּיּוֹם
stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.
as the day, tss. *this day* in other places.
perhaps, at the moment

that I may shew thee, of the verb שָׁמַע, also tss. to hear, to perceive, to obey, to discern.

that I may shew thee the word of God – That word which Samuel declares to Saul is what follows in the next chapter (10), vss. 1-8.

Samuel confirmed to Saul that he was to be Israel's king.

In closing, and this is some off the immediate subject:

What have we seen? We have seen the LORD working in what might appear to be for us so many insignificant and inconvenient details. The elders, in behalf of Israel, asked for a king and after this was done Samuel dismissed them to go to their places. (1Sa.8.22) Now consider just a few of the many things that the LORD did to show to Samuel who Israel's next king shall be.

First thing, the LORD directs that the asses of Saul's father simply wander off. Immediately his father sends him, with a servant to recover them. After spending two days wandering around looking for these animals the LORD informs Samuel that He is sending who shall be Israel's first king his way. In preparation this moment Samuel sets up a feast and invites 30 guests to dinner and tells the cook to reserve the shoulder for a special guest. On the third day Saul is ready to abandon the search and return home, but his servant informs him that there is a prophet in this nearby city that might be able to help them. So as they went up to the city it just so happens that they meet with several maidens that went out to draw water. And they know of the prophet, where his house is, what he is doing and the

need to find him shortly before the feast begins. Then, as *luck would have it*, right? As Saul arrived to the gate and as Samuel began to make his way to the feast their paths crossed. Suddenly the LORD said to Samuel, *Behold the man!* Of course Saul didn't know anything and asks Samuel where the house of the Seer is. And Samuel replied, *'I am the Seer.'* And everything came together perfectly. Samuel invites Saul to the feast, sets him in the chiefest place, and has the cook sets before him the best of the meat. This is a small description of all the things that the LORD did to bring Saul to Samuel, in so many insignificant and inconvenient details.

I think this could help us to see the hand of the LORD working in the little things; things that make no sense, things that seem like a complete waste of time, things that we can't make heads or tails of; but things that contribute to our good and His glory. We wonder why this, or why that?

Zec 4:10 For who hath despised the day of small things? ... (A reference to the second temple that was far less that Solomon's temple.)

But if any should know that nothing is by accident, it is the child of God. Everything, by the grace of God, and only because of the grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, is conspiring to our good and His glory.

On a personal note, I've fretted over what are so many unimportant matters, and still do. Looking back over such things in my past I can see that the LORD was directing in all of it. But I look back and say that I should have trusted Him more.

Ro 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

...

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

39 [Nothing] ... shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Why was it necessary for the apostle Peter's mother-in-law to fall gravely ill? Or, what purpose was there for Paul to be nearly beaten to death and dragged out of the city for dead, for being stoned with rocks, for arrested time and time again, for suffering exposure to inclement weather, or being robbed, or enduring the terrible experience of the stormy sea and being shipwrecked, or being bitten by a snake? That Epaphroditus become so sick that he nearly die? What good purpose could it serve for Timothy to be afflicted in his stomach? What do any of these things have to do with the service of Christ? It all seems so meaningless. What is it that the Lord doing? Is He not directing in all things so that we are made more into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ? Aren't we in training at this present time, being prepared for the greatest honor of a lifetime, to rule and reign with Christ? Our lives are full of insignificant and inconvenient details, but the LORD is in them all: flat tires, car accidents, vehicle breaking down, house repairs, misbehaving children, unrest at home, dental visits and doctor appointments, by-passed promotions, or just sitting still, being quiet, and doing nothing. Certainly, if it wasn't for the Lord it would all be in vain. But because of Him there is purpose, meaning, and value to every experience.

While we might not understand what the Lord might be doing in our lives through so many things, trust Him to be working His good and perfect will in us. Let us yield ourselves to patiently, faithfully apply the word of God to every aspect of our lives.

Ps.27.13 [I had fainted], unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

wait, Piel imper. of the verb וַיִּקַּח (twice in this verse), tss. to wait on, to be gathered together, to look, to tarry.

be of good courage, Qal imper. of the verb וַיִּקַּח, tss. to prevail, to confirm, to establish, to have courage, to be stout, to be strengthened, to be hardened, to take hold, to seize, to retain.

and he shall strengthen, Hiphil fut. of the verb יָצַח, tss. to be strong, to have good courage, to be obstinate, to be fortified, to be steadfastly minded, to be increased, to be hardened.

Look at all seemingly, insignificant, inconvenient things that the LORD did to bring the first king of Israel before the prophet Samuel.