

# 17. Saul the Peoples Choice

*Quote: "But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.*

*And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them."*

**1 Samuel 8:6, 7**

## Verse By Verse Bible Marking:

**1 Samuel 8:4** - "**Ramah**" - This is also the place where the kingdom came to an end. (**Jeremiah 40:1; 31:15-16**).

**1 Samuel 8:5** - "**make us a king**" - This was prophesied in **Deut 17:14-20** where the law made provision for a king. See also **Gen 35:11; 49:10; Num 24:17** and **1 Sam 2:10**. The people should have waited for Yahweh to act.

**"like all the nations"** - Israel's actions were based on a desire to follow the world (cp **Deut 12:30**), and not on divine principles. See also **verse 7**. They were envious of the nations and wished to copy them. They forgot the power and greatness of their invisible King (**1 Tim 1:17; Psa 146:3,5**).

**1 Samuel 9:1** - "**Kish**" - Means "laying a snare, or bending (ie bending a snare to trap). He was a mighty man of power (substance - see margin). Perhaps a position obtained by unscrupulous means. These characteristics later revealed themselves in Saul.

**"Abiel"** - Means "Ail is my father".

**1 Samuel 9:2** - "**Saul**" - Means "asked for", or "appointed". He was asked for by the people.

### **1 Samuel 10:1-8 - Three signs given to Saul:**

#### **First Sign: 1 Samuel 10:1-2**

**1 Sam 10:2** - "**Rachel's Sepulchre**" - the burying place of the mother of his tribe (Benjamin). It was where his tribe began. Through death there was life. It taught Saul the need to put to death the flesh, and the need for selflessness on the part of the leader of the nation.

**"The asses which thou wentest to seek are found"** - the ass is a symbol of Israel. They were lost spiritually. Saul's duty was to find them and lead them to right pasture. He would not do this without Yahweh.

**Second Sign: 1 Samuel 10:3-4** - The second sign showed the need for a new start, and that Godly men would respect him and assist him in this.

#### Chapter Breakdown:

#### 1 Samuel 8-15 – Saul: The People's Choice.

Ch 8-10 – His Appointment As King.

Ch 11-12 – His Promising Beginning.

Ch 13-15 – His Later Folly and Sin.

1 Samuel 10:3 - **“plain of Tabor”** - NASB and RSV has “oak of Tabor”. It is believed to be Allon-bachuth mentioned in Gen 35:8 where Jacob’s family buried their idols. Likewise Saul was being encouraged to make a new start.

**“three men going up to Bethel”** - Bethel means “House of God” or “House of Ail”. He was to join himself to those going to the House of God.

**Third Sign: 1 Samuel 10:5-8** - Showed the need for Saul to choose good companions (1 Cor 15:33) and the need for him to rely on the power of Yahweh. He was to see the impact of these on himself ( v5-6), because he was not accustomed to being overmuch interested in the things of God (v11).

## Saul’s Family Tree (Mark at the top or bottom of 1 Samuel 9)

