

**Part 2: Saul**

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**1 Samuel 9:21** Saul answered, “But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?”

**1 Samuel 10**

<sup>20</sup> When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. <sup>21</sup> Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri’s clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.

<sup>22</sup> So they inquired further of the LORD, “Has the man come here yet?”

And the LORD said, “Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”

<sup>23</sup> They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. <sup>24</sup> Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.”

Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

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<sup>27</sup> But some troublemakers said, “How can this fellow save us?” They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.

**1 Samuel 13 ...**

<sup>5</sup> The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. ...

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. <sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter. <sup>9</sup> So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and

he fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering. <sup>10</sup> Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

<sup>11</sup> “What have you done?” asked Samuel.

Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, <sup>12</sup> I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

<sup>13</sup> “You acted foolishly,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.

<sup>14</sup> But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Samuel left Gilgal and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin, and Saul counted the men who were with him. They numbered about six hundred.

**1 Samuel 15 ...**

<sup>9</sup> But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: <sup>11</sup> “I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

<sup>12</sup> Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup> Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

<sup>16</sup> “Stop!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night. ‘Tell me,’ Saul replied.

<sup>17</sup> Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. <sup>18</sup> And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.’ <sup>19</sup> Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?”

<sup>20</sup> “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. <sup>21</sup> The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD?

To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

<sup>23</sup> For rebellion is like the sin of divination,  
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.  
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. <sup>25</sup> Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.”

<sup>26</sup> But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!”

<sup>27</sup> As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore.

...  
<sup>30</sup> Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God.” <sup>31</sup> So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

...  
<sup>35</sup> Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.

