

# FAMOUS Chapter 9

## 1 Samuel 9: The First King

Why is this chapter famous? If I skipped a head around a thousand years, we see the Baby Jesus. If we skip backwards, we have God promising the people a savior. A king. The people in the tribe of Israel had followed God for thousands of years from Adam to the Judges of Israel. Eve was told in the very beginning that someone from her line would be that king. She thought it was Caine. Clearly that did not happen. If we follow this timeline, we find the people slowly slipping away from God and towards other cultures. This brings us to Judges 21:25 *“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”*

There was a yearning for a leader. Eve’s leader? The surrounding tribes were cool because they had royalty and kings. The Israelites took their eyes off of God and wanted the cool things of this world. They wanted a king. I find it totally fascinating that Israel writers throw themselves under the bus in the Bible. It says in 1 Samuel 8 that God told them exactly what would happen if they got a king. It would not go well. Yet, the people demanded one anyways. So, it says God granted their request.

Later on, we find God having a conversation with the priest Samuel.

1 Samuel 16:7 *“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”*

I give you all this to bring us to the famous chapter 9 in 1 Samuel. God provides a king for Israel. They asked for it so God gave it. This chapter is exactly why we should be careful what we ask for. The

first king of Israel is the king that Eve was promised. It's not the savior that the people were looking for. King Saul was a disaster from the very beginning. He was a handsome man. He was tall. I bet he was noble looking. Yet, when they went to anointing him king he was hiding scared. That should have been their first clue. Yet, the people anointed him anyways.

There are many chapters surrounding this man named Saul. It's not so much that he was a bad man. He was just not God's first choice. The people never asked God to choose for them. They just said they wanted a king. Samuel could have rejected this man but he did not. Even God's choice of David was rejected by Samuel. He was looking for a different type of leader. I feel that this chapter is famous because it begins a path to Jesus. Jesus is Eve's promised heir. It is the one called the messiah. The anointed one.

It's interesting that the anointed ones in the Bible are rejected by the people. I still say its fascination that the writers record it that way. Why records their mistakes? The people in Jesus day were opposed by the romans and religious rulers. They were looking for a king and savior. Jesus came and disappointed them. He is their king, but he ruled in a different way than they wanted. 1 Samuel begins the journey to Jesus. It's a very long road and an even longer list of failed kings.

What does God see. I fear church has gone the way of the Israel kings of the past. In school I was surrounded by the prettiest people I know. They were the sons and daughters of pastors. 10 years out of school has seen posting after posting of these pastor's kids being elevated in churches. Deserved? I am not sure. Some that I have met are awesome kids. Yet, the plain janes and johns of this world are not getting the church appointments. History has a nasty way of repeating itself. Even in Christian circles. This chapter nine is a warning that many have ignored.