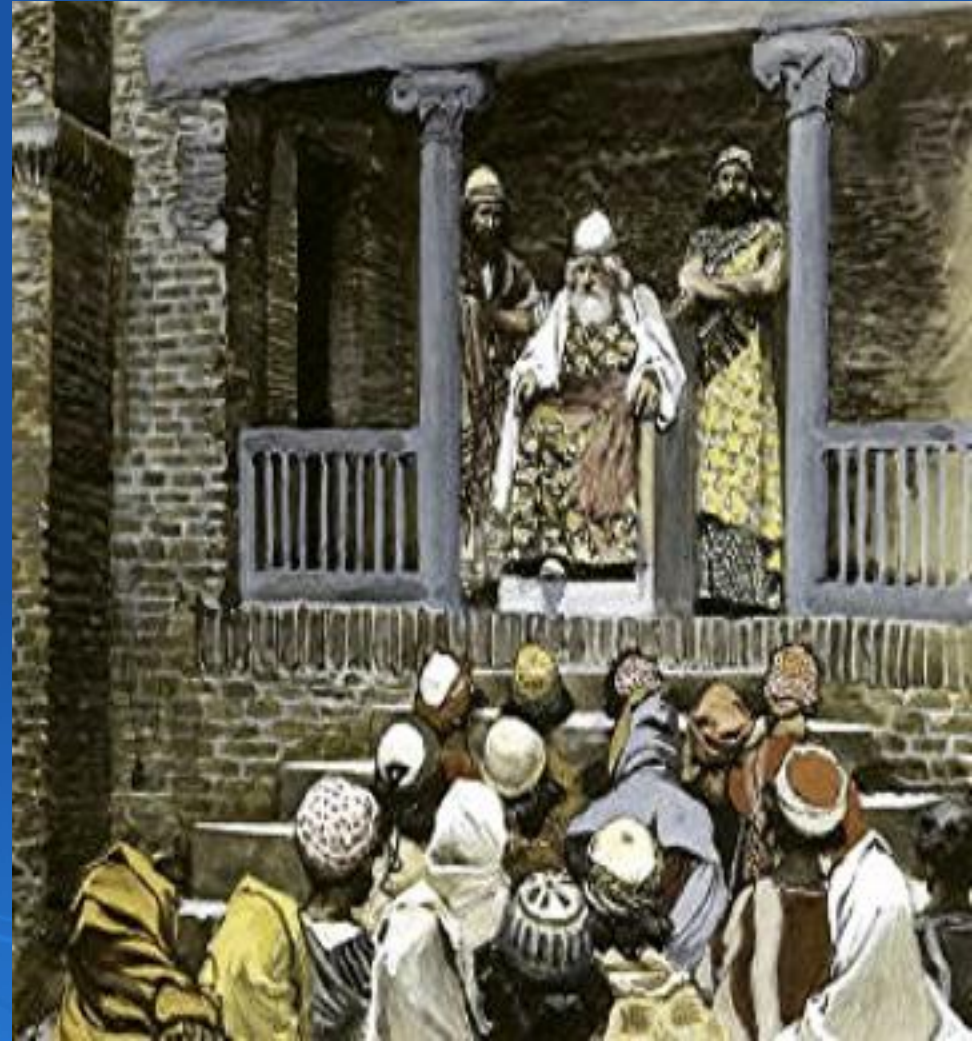


1ST SAMUEL 8:

“ We want a king to rule us.... ”

- Tribal leaders demanded a new form of government
- This section of the bible is showing the difference between the God-ideal versus the man-ideal of a king
- Lord says Israel is NOT rejecting Samuel, they're rejecting God
- Israel's claim that God was their king was hollow and an excuse to maintain their tribal independence



IDEAL KING VS. HUMAN KING



- *Shophet* was the government that God employed on an as-needed basis
- The position of King of Israel was already taken! **YHWH** was king.
- Israel was replacing God with a human king
- Vs. 9 *ha'ed taid* = to legally declare (not warn)
- Vs. 10 *ha sha'al* = to request a king
- *Sha'ul* = the requested one



CHARACTERISTICS OF A HUMAN KING

- Israel's king will be modeled after a gentile king
- A national army will be formed
- Conscripted soldiers, not volunteers
- Some soldiers will be human shields for the king
- Food production and weapons manufacture is nationalized
- King owns all aspects of his kingdom

CHARIOT RUNNERS



THE KINGS COURT WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE SUPPORTED

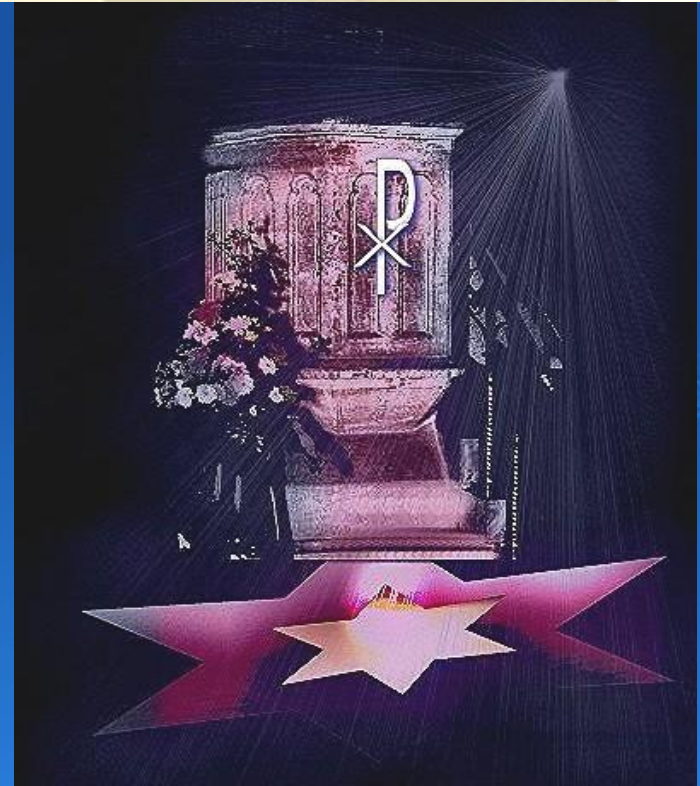


- Israel's women will have to serve by cooking and making perfume
- The king will confiscate property to reward his court
- What isn't confiscated will be taxed
- The human king takes from everyone for the benefit of himself
- Human king has no end of wants and needs
- Divine king needs nothing

ISRAEL NO LONGER WANTS TO BE “SET-APART”



- God-Principle: Some things are so offensive to God, that we will live with the consequences permanently
- Still wanted to claim YHWH, but also wanted to be like the world
- Church claimed YHWH did give up Israel
- Both sides are wrong!
- **Shema** = hear and do



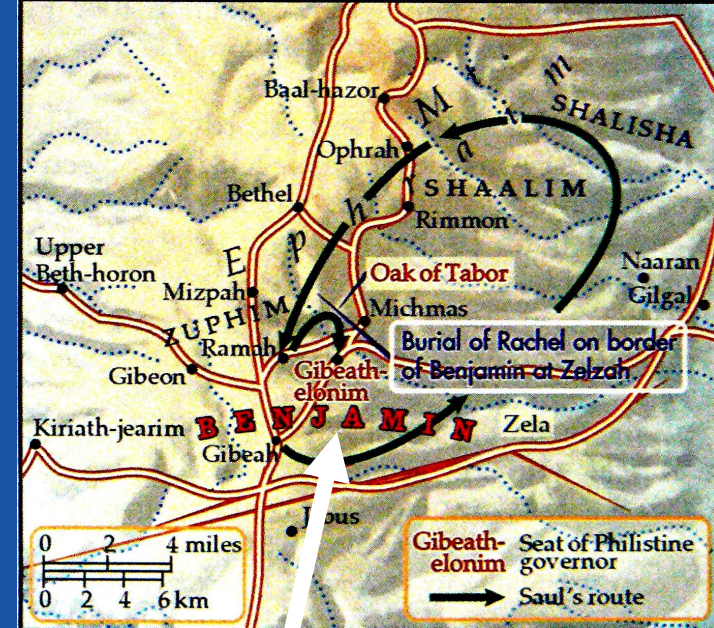
1ST SAMUEL CHAPTER 9: THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL IS CHOSEN



- Kish, son of Avi'el, tribe of Binyamin
- **Gibbor** = physically strong
- **Chayil** = wealthy and with political influence
- **Sha'ul** = the requested one
- God gave Israel the epitome of a human king: charismatic, tall, handsome, strong, prosperous, from a wealthy family

GOD REVEALS HIS CHOICE of SHA'UL

- Saul and a young servant are sent to search for Kish's lost donkeys
- They went to area of the Hills of Ephraim
- Zuph, a Levite clan, ancestors of Samuel
- Man of God = *ish elohim*
- *Ish elohim* = a holy man
- Term evolved from meaning a "seer" to meaning a "Prophet"



SHA'UL SEEKS A SEER TO FIND HIS DONKEYS



- Sha'ul's servant offers a $\frac{1}{4}$ shekel of silver to use to pay the seer
- They were in the territory of Zuph
- **Bemah** = high place, hilltop
- Saul approaches some girls at the city well to ask if the seer was there
- Samuel was the seer!
- **Ra'ah** = seer, a professional holy man
- **Nabi (Navi)** = Prophet, delivers God's oracles to the people or the king



SAMUEL INVITED TO THE RITUAL FEAST



- “Sacrifice” is NOT used in this verse
- **Zevah** = a KIND of sacrifice... vow and thanksgiving offering
- Sha’ul surprised to find Samuel, but Samuel was expecting Israel’s future king to show up
- **Nagid** = prince, captain, king-in-waiting
- The **Nagid** would become the **Melech** (king) upon his coronation



SHA'UL WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT THE PHILISTINES

- Philistines were saber-rattling
- Samuel was old and the tribal leaders feared he no longer had the influence to muster the militia
- It was very likely the growing Philistine threat that triggered the tribal leaders' call for Samuel to step aside and anoint a king
- It didn't take a Prophet to know that war with the Philistines was coming



SAMUEL SEATS SAUL AT THE TABLE OF DIGNITARIES

- When Samuel saw Sha'ul, he knew this was the chosen one
- Saul did NOT seem to know Samuel
- “What is on Saul’s heart” means “what is on Saul’s MIND”
- Samuel tells Saul that all Israel is longing for him, and Saul knows right away what that means!



SAMUEL SPEAKS TO SHA'UL ABOUT WHAT IS EXPECTED OF HIM



- Saul's family was a lesser of the families that formed his aristocratic clan
- Samuel was served the "leg" or "thigh and shoulder"
- This was the choicest cut, reserved for the Priests, and this action made it clear that Saul was of highly special status
- Priests usually got the right leg, so Saul must have received the left leg