

1 Samuel 8-10, 15 - King Saul

After years without a regular, permanent leader, the people of Israel were united under a monarchy. The story of how Saul became their first king is a combination of two accounts: one favors the idea of having a king; the other is more critical.

1. First, the favorable account. Read through **1 Samuel 9:1-10:16** and number these events in the correct order.

- _____ Samuel anointed Saul with oil, as the future king.
- _____ The Lord told Samuel to anoint Saul as the new king.
- _____ Kish's son Saul was taller and better looking than anyone else.
- _____ Saul told his uncle about the donkeys, but not that he was to be king.
- _____ Saul couldn't find the donkeys and watered to go back home.
- _____ When Saul met a band of prophets, he too started to prophesy!
- _____ Saul and his servant found Samuel on his way to eat a sacred meal.
- _____ Kish sent Saul to look for his runaway donkeys.
- _____ Samuel told Saul to go to Tabor, then to Gibeah, and then to Gilgal.
- _____ Saul slept all night on Samuel's roof.
- _____ Saul's servant talked him into visiting a prophet.
- _____ Samuel gave Saul the best meal at the dinner.

2. According to **1 Samuel 9:15-16**, why did the Lord decide to give the people a king?

3. Now for the unfavorable account. Skim through **1 Samuel 8:1-22 & 10:17-27**. According to **8:6-9 & 10:17-19**, why was having a king not a good idea?

4. According to **8:10-18**, how would a king eventually treat them?

5. According to **1 Samuel 15:10-35**, the Lord eventually rejected Saul as king. Why?

6. Which national leaders or politicians have you admired? What qualities did you like?

7. Which national leaders or politicians have you disliked? What qualities did you not admire?

8. **1 Samuel 15:22-23** may be the key to understanding Saul's tragedy. Color this verse in your Bible and tell how it can serve as a warning for your own life.