

# Saul As King

1 Samuel 9-11

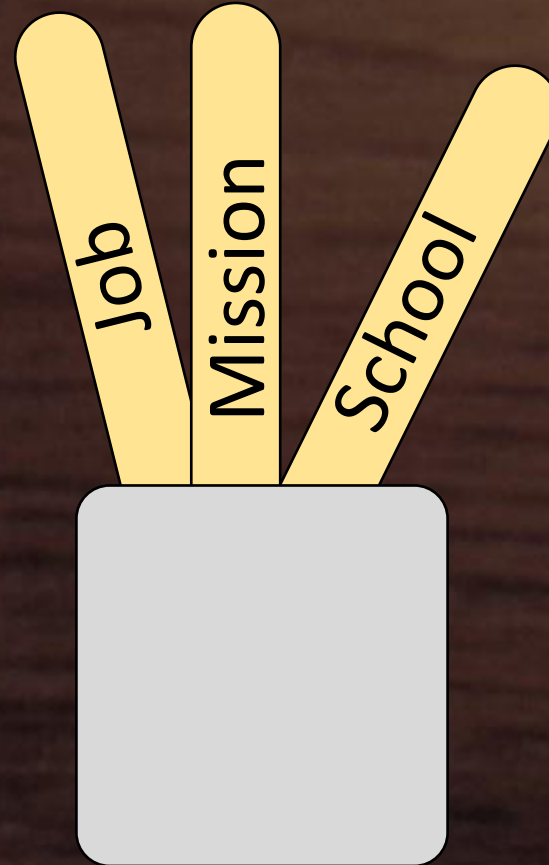


*And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom;  
that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of  
your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.  
Mosiah 2:17*

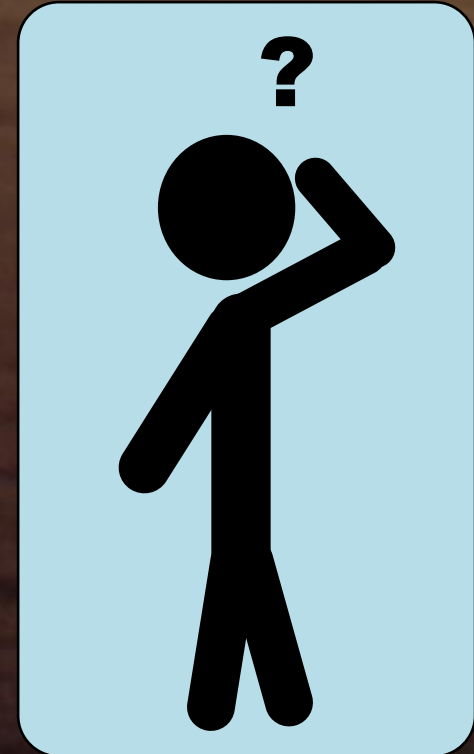
# Receiving The Lord's Instruction



You are traveling and cannot find your desire destination



You are approaching graduation and wondering what to do next in life



You are asked a challenging question about the Church and you don't know the answer



# Previously...

Samuel is aging and his sons Joel and Abiah are taking bribes and judging unwisely



The people are discouraged and asks Samuel to appoint a king

Samuel emphasizes the things that could happen under a kingship, especially under an unrighteous king

A whole new era begins for the Israelites

# Saul

He was from the tribe of Benjamin and his father, Kish, was a powerful man in Giah

He was a big, strong, and righteous Israelite and his history is recorded in Samuel 1

His wife was named Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz. His sons were: Johnathan, Ishui, and Melchi-shua, and daughters Merab, and Michal (1 Samuel 14:49-50)

The Lord caused the prophet Samul to anoint young Saul to be king of Israel

He began as a humble servant, however, soon after assuming the role of king of Israel, he began to forget the Lord and take upon priestly duties and was rejected of the Lord

He disobeyed the Lord by saving the spoils from the battle of the Amalekites

Samuel told him that the Lord would choose another king

He was an eyewitness to the process of his own dethronement

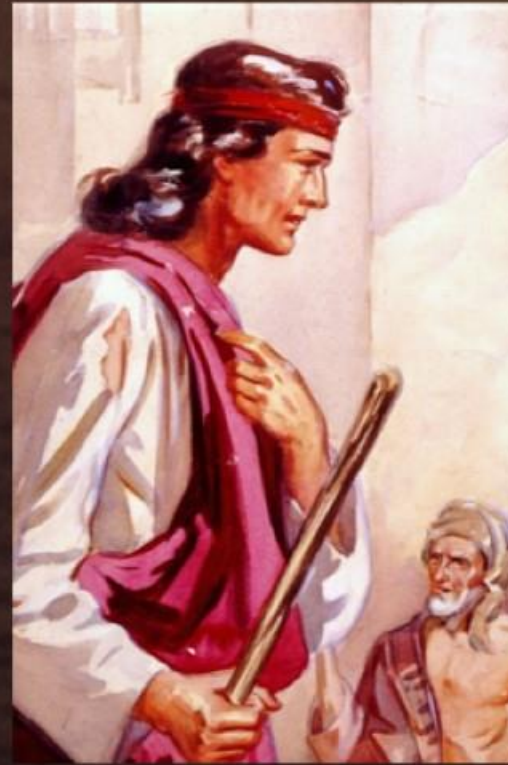
He was plagued by the spirit of jealousy and continually plotted for the death of David

He lost his life in a battle at Mount Giboa

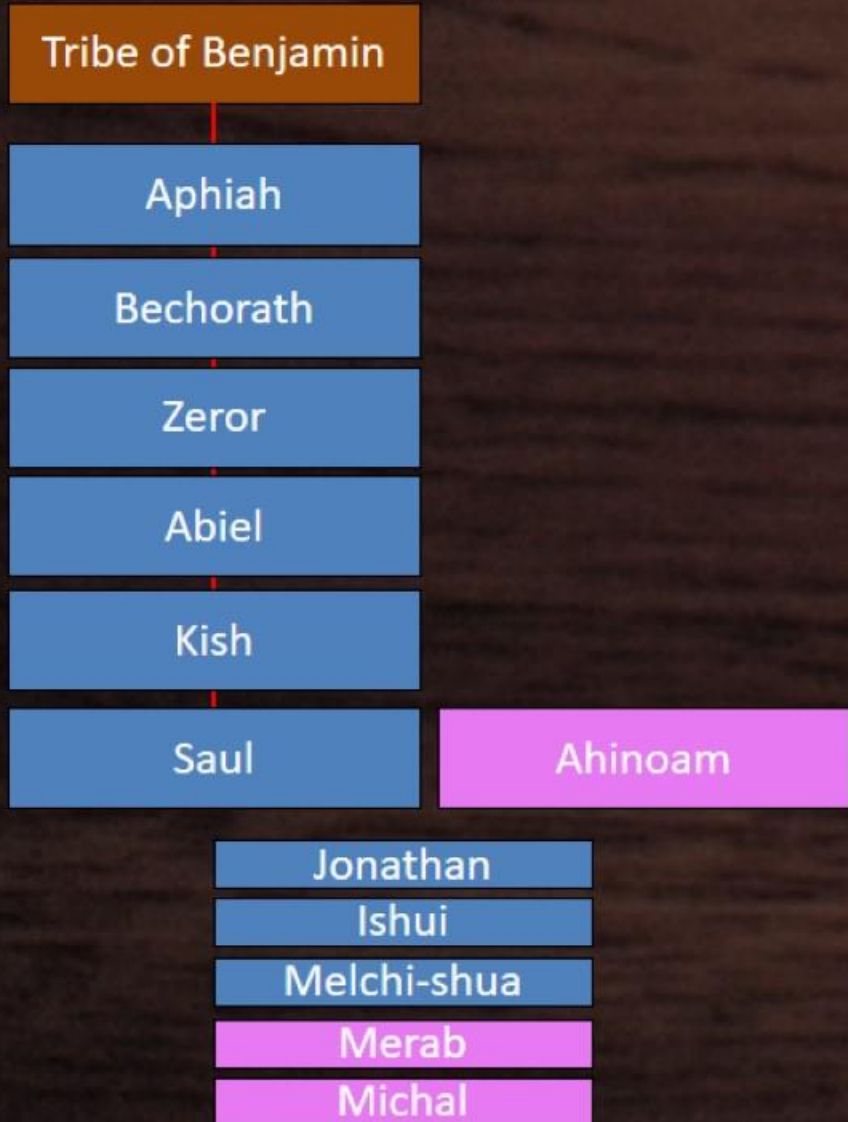




# Looking For Donkeys



Saul went looking for his father's lost donkeys





# Saul Meets Samuel

*Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable*

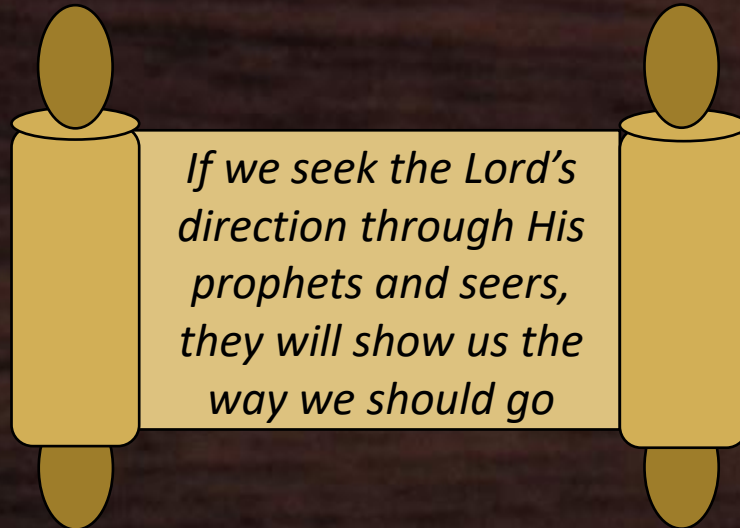
*Seer* = a man of God who can see or know of things in the past, present, or future that others may not perceive



Upon their arrival in the city, the man of God came toward them as he was going to bless a sacrifice on behalf of the people.

# Saul is Treated As A Guest

*Saul is worried over the donkeys: Samuel's instruction regarding the donkeys was likely given to strengthen Saul's faith in preparation for the call to be king*



Samuel was saying that Saul was the man the Lord had chosen to fulfill Israel's desire to have a king



# Saul is Anointed

Anointing with oil in a priesthood service is as old as Adam.

Since the Lord set up the kingdom of Israel and revealed the laws that were to govern their kings, it was altogether fitting that these kings be anointed with oil.



“Anointing with oil was a symbol of endowment with the Spirit of God; as the oil itself, by virtue of the strength which it gives to the vital spirits, was a symbol of the Spirit of God as the principle of divine and spiritual power. Hitherto there had been no other anointing among the people of God than that of the priests and sanctuary. (2)



# Saul is Selected As King

The people who knew Saul were surprised to see him prophesy with the group of prophets.

After this event, Samuel gathered the Israelites together and reminded them that they had rejected the Lord by seeking to have a king.

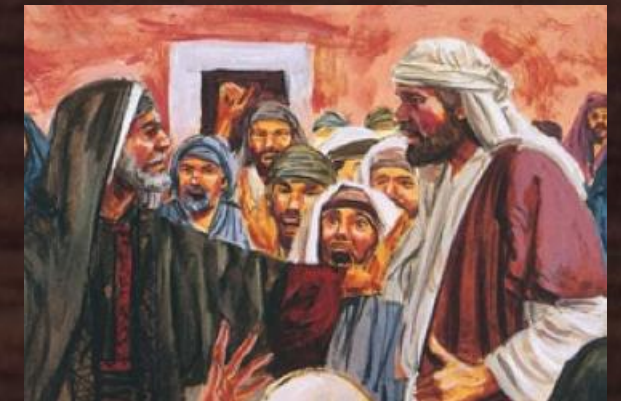
He then announced that Saul was the man whom the Lord had chosen to be the earthly leader of Israel.



Not everyone supported Saul's selection as king.

One group of people questioned Saul's abilities and despised him, but Saul did not retaliate against them.

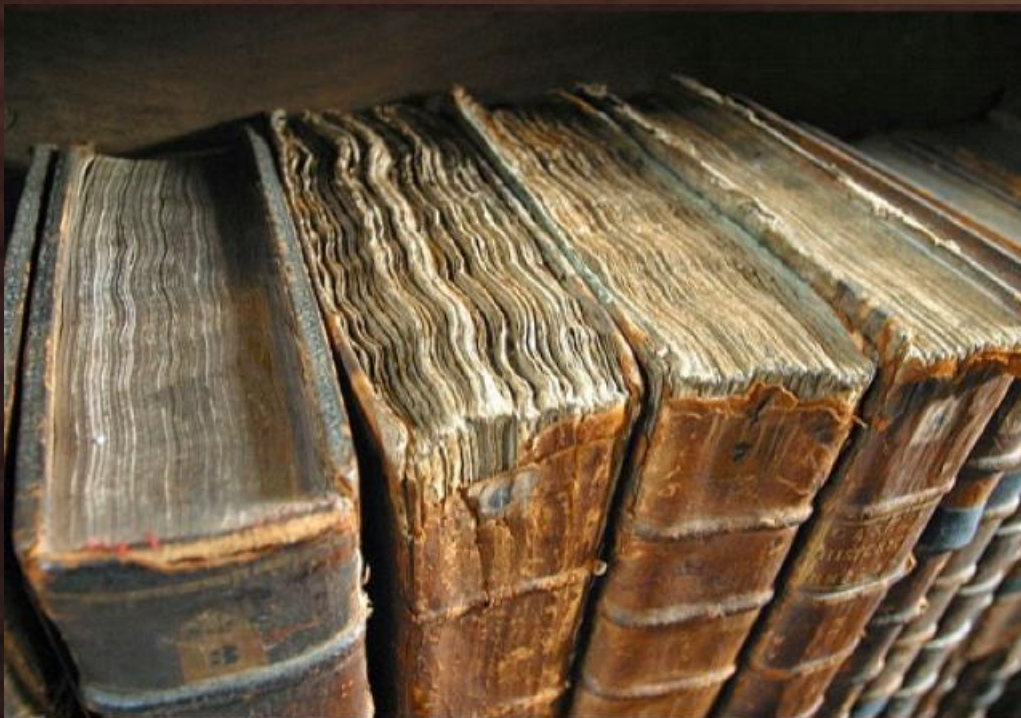
*"How shall this man save us? And they despised him and brought him no presents. But he held his peace."*





# Writing It In A Book

Several books are mentioned in the Old Testament which are not a part of the present canon of scripture.



Certainly the standard works do not contain all that God has ever spoken to His children, and those who say that the Bible is all there is are mistaken.

The Book of Mormon itself does not contain “even a hundredth part” of all the Mormon had at his disposal to make his abridgment. (2)

*“And there had many things transpired which, in the eyes of some, would be great and marvelous: nevertheless, they cannot all be written in this book; yea, this book cannot contain even a hundredth part of what was done among so many people in the space of twenty and five years; 3 Nephi 5:8*



# Saul's Success

Sometime after Saul's appointment as king of Israel, the Ammonites threatened to attack some Israelites living east of the Jordan River.



*“And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal;*

He slew his oxen and sent the pieces thereof to every tribe to dramatize that this crisis called for a united Israel.

He joined his authority with that of Samuel in the message.

Under this leadership, the armies of Israel dealt a stunning defeat to the Ammonites, and Saul gave all credit to the Lord.

The victory provided the catalyst for uniting the tribes into one nation for the first time. So strong was the support for Saul that some suggested that those who had earlier questioned his right to rule be put to death. Saul rejected this proposal.



# Next Time on Saul As King...

"In fiction, tragic heroes struggle valiantly against their reversed fortune. In Saul's case, truth shadows fiction, for he spent the rest of his life struggling against just such a reversal.

Saul was no quitter. He was no coward. But he was proud and would not repent.

Realizing that his blessings and kingdom had indeed been given to another, he looked about to see who this might be."





Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #59 *Come, O Thou King of Kings*---The Lord is our King....not mortal men

Video: Rise To Your Call (1:37)



1. *Who's Who in the Old Testament* by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen p. 166-167
2. Old Testament Institute Manual
3. The Tragic Dimensions of Saul by Richard G. Ellsworth June 1990 Ensign



### **Samuel during his middle years:**

“Because the middle years are missing from the scriptures we have no idea how or when the latest wave of Philistine oppression began. Samuel during that time moved from Shiloh to Ramah where he built an altar and thereafter maintained his headquarter...Israel was once more under the Philistines and Samuel’s sons were commencing to behave much like Eli’s.” (2)

“**Bad government** is the kind which does not meet people’s needs. People need to have a remedy if they are wronged, which we call *Justice*. They need to be severe in their lives, their property and their privacy which we call *Civil Rights*. They need to be free to choose their vocation and avocation, their religion, their residence, their travel, their education, what they shall write and what they shall speak, This we call *Liberty*. Finally, they need to know that whatever rights or duties exist shall be universal in their application –that there shall be no privileged class—that there shall be one law for all the people. This we call *Equality*.”

*Thomas Jefferson: “Liberty is a boisterous sea. Timid men prefer the calm of despotism.”*

*W. Cleon Skousen The Third Thousand Years p. 620*

### **The Ammonites:**

Nahash, king of the Ammonites, and his army attacked the tribes on the east of the Jordan. No doubt he intended to enforce the claim to a part of Gilead asserted by his ancestor in the time of Jephthah (see Judges 11:13). In desperation, the men of Jabesh-gilead appealed for help from the tribes west of the Jordan. Even though Saul had been officially appointed king, the tribes seem still to have remained in their independent and self-governed state. Some even seem to have rejected Saul as king (see 1 Samuel 11:12). (2)

### **The Spirit Was On Saul**

President Spencer W. Kimball taught the following about the change that came upon Saul after he was set apart:

“A positive change came over Saul. The setting apart turned him *into another man and gave him another heart*. New powers came to him at once. Those who knew him were astounded at his increased spirituality, his newly acquired wisdom and judgment and his newly attained maturity and powers, and exclaimed in amazement:

“What has happened to Saul? He is not the same! ‘What is this that has come unto the son of Kish. Is Saul also among the prophets?’ [1 Sam. 10:11].

“Who has not watched the transformation of a newly set apart person to high responsibility? Who has not seen men already great rise to new plateaus of superior attainment braced with the authority, the keys, the mantle?” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1958, 55).



## The New Era for the Israelites

Prophets	Kings who Ruled	Approximate Date	Years Ruled
Samuel	Saul	1095-1059	Est. 42
	David anointed king by Samuel	1052-1019	33
	David became king in Hebron	1055	
Nathan Gad	David became king in Jerusalem	1047	
	Solomon became king of all Israel	1015	40
	Solomon died 10 Northern tribes revolt <b>Israel was divided</b> Jeroboam 1 (Kingdom of Israel) Rehoboam (Kingdom of Judah)	975  931 931	44

For table of Kings and  
Prophets PDF file

<https://www.lds.org/bc/content/shared/content/images/gospel-library/manual/34589/kings.pdf>

Several books are mentioned in the Old Testament which are not a part of the present canon of scripture.

"Reference is made in both the Old and New Testaments to books and epistles which are not now available."

Elder Bruce R. McConkie *Mormon Doctrine* p. 454

Book of the Covenant	Exodus 24:4,7
Book of the Wars of the Lord	Numbers 21:14
Book of Jasher	Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18
A Book of Statues	1 Samuel 10:25
Book of the Acts of Solomon	1 Kings 11:41
Books of Nathan and Gad	1 Chronicles 29:29; 2 Chronicles 9:29
Prophecy of Ahijah and Visions of Iddo	2 Chronicles 9:29; 12:15; 13:22
Book of Shemaiah	2 Chronicles 12:15
Book of Jehu	2 Chronicles 20:34
Acts of Uzziah written by Isaiah	2 Chronicles 26:22
Sayings of the Seers	2 Chronicles 33:19
An epistle of Paul to the Corinthians	1 Corinthians 5:9
An epistle of Paul to the Ephesians	Ephesians 3:3
An Epistle of Paul to the Laodiceans	Colossians 4:16
Epistle of Jude	Jude 3
The Prophecies of Enoch	Jude 14