

Dr. Robert Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 7, 1 Samuel 9-10 -- Meet Israel's New King Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 7, 1 Samuel 9-10 Meet Israel's New King, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Chisholm's lecture focuses on 1 Samuel 9-10, exploring the introduction and selection of Saul as Israel's first king. The lecture analyzes Israel's desire for a king and God's response, highlighting the tension between the people's request and God's intentions. **It examines Saul's characterization, God's providence in his selection, and Samuel's role in anointing him.** The lecture points out the multiple signs given to Saul to confirm his calling and the implications of his initial hesitations. **Ultimately, it emphasizes God's continued commitment to His people despite their rejection of His direct rule,** while also cautioning about the consequences of seeking worldly solutions over divine guidance.

2. 29 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Chisholm, Session 7 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → 1 Samuel).



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3. Briefing Document: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 7, 1 Samuel 9-10 – Meet Israel's New King

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from Dr. Chisholm's lecture on 1 Samuel 9-10:

Briefing Document: 1 Samuel 9-10 – The Anointing of Saul

Main Themes:

- **God's Grace and Provision Despite Israel's Rejection:** Even after Israel's demand for a king (1 Samuel 8) is seen as a rejection of God's rule, God demonstrates grace by providing a leader (Saul) to address their legitimate need for security, specifically from the Philistines. As Chisholm notes, "Even when his people's faith falls short of his expectations, the Lord remains faithful and makes provision for their deliverance." God hasn't completely rejected them, but is acting out of compassion. "The Lord recognizes his people's legitimate need for security and mercifully intervenes to prevent their destruction."
- **The Danger of Rejecting God's Authority and Embracing Cultural Norms:** Israel's desire for "a king like all the nations" reflects a rejection of God's unique form of leadership and a desire to conform to the standards of the surrounding cultures. This sets the stage for potential negative consequences. "When God's people foolishly embrace cultural norms and reject his authority, he exercises his right to rule his covenant community in a way that is best for them. He doesn't surrender control."
- **The Consequences of Foolish Desires and False Security:** The lecture emphasizes the theme "watch out what you ask for." God may grant people their desires, but sometimes as a form of discipline or judgment, allowing them to experience the negative consequences of their choices. As Chisholm states, "When God's people foolishly seek false security and reject his authority, he may discipline them by letting them experience the consequences of their behavior." Saul, the "asked for one," may not be the successful king they envision.

- **God's Sovereignty in Choosing Leadership:** Although the people desire a king, God ultimately chooses the individual, highlighting His continued sovereignty even within the new system of kingship. Samuel reminds them that it was the "Lord who does the choosing." This alludes to Deuteronomy 17, where God provides rules for the kind of king He wants, which is not a king "like all the nations".

Important Ideas and Facts:

- **Context: Israel's Demand for a King:** The lecture builds upon the events of 1 Samuel 8, where Israel's request for a king is interpreted as a rejection of God's kingship. This desire stemmed from a need for national security, particularly against the Ammonites. "Israel feels threatened and they want a king that they can look at with a standing army to deliver them. The Lord regards this as a rejection of his rule."
- **Samuel's Initial Hesitation:** Samuel's initial response to Israel's demand was to send them home, which Dr. Chisholm interprets as a form of intercession, giving God an opportunity to reconsider.
- **Saul's Characterization:** Saul is introduced as a handsome and tall individual who appears "king-like." However, the narrative highlights his hesitancy, lack of spiritual awareness, and initial reluctance to embrace his role. This characterization foreshadows his later failures. The lost donkey story serves to highlight Saul's character.
- **God's Providence:** Despite Saul's seemingly random search for donkeys, God is actively guiding him to Samuel, orchestrating the events that lead to his anointing. "What we're seeing is God's providence is at work. Even though Saul just seems to be sort of random in his search for the donkeys, God is overseeing all of this and God has led him to the prophet Samuel."
- **Nagid vs. Melek:** God refers to Saul as a "Nagid" (ruler/leader) rather than a "Melek" (king), suggesting that Saul is intended to be a vice-regent under God's authority, not a king like those of other nations. "I'll give them a ruler, but I'm not going to call him a Melek. He's going to be a Nagid. And I think in this context, in contrast to Melek, a Nagid, ruler, is one who is going to, yes, rule over the people, but he is going to almost be like a vice-regent under the Lord's authority."
- **Threefold Sign for Saul:** God provides Saul with a threefold sign to confirm his anointing: 1) news about the donkeys, 2) an offering of bread from travelers on

their way to worship, and 3) being overcome by the Spirit of the Lord in the presence of prophets, after which he is expected to attack a nearby Philistine outpost.

- **Saul's Failure to Act:** Despite receiving the signs and being empowered by the Spirit, Saul does not immediately attack the Philistine outpost, instead going to a high place to worship. This inaction further highlights his hesitancy and foreshadows his later disobedience.
- **Public Confirmation at Mizpah:** Samuel summons the people to Mizpah for a public confirmation of Saul's kingship. However, Saul is found hiding among the baggage, revealing his continued reluctance.
- **Deuteronomy 17:** Samuel reminds the people of the rights and duties of kingship. It is believed that Samuel is referencing Deuteronomy 17 to remind the people that the king will be different from kings of other nations. They won't accumulate horses, chariots, women and money.
- **The "Scoundrels":** Some individuals question Saul's ability to save them and don't bring him gifts. They recognize that this kingship is not what they asked for.

Quotes:

- "Even when his people's faith falls short of his expectations, the Lord remains faithful and makes provision for their deliverance."
- "Israel feels threatened and they want a king that they can look at with a standing army to deliver them. The Lord regards this as a rejection of his rule."
- "What we're seeing is God's providence is at work. Even though Saul just seems to be sort of random in his search for the donkeys, God is overseeing all of this and God has led him to the prophet Samuel."
- "I'll give them a ruler, but I'm not going to call him a Melek. He's going to be a Nagid. And I think in this context, in contrast to Melek, a Nagid, ruler, is one who is going to, yes, rule over the people, but he is going to almost be like a vice-regent under the Lord's authority."
- "The Lord recognizes his people's legitimate need for security and mercifully intervenes to prevent their destruction."

- "When God's people foolishly embrace cultural norms and reject his authority, he exercises his right to rule his covenant community in a way that is best for them. He doesn't surrender control."
- "When God's people foolishly seek false security and reject his authority, he may discipline them by letting them experience the consequences of their behavior."
- "The Lord who does the choosing."

Conclusion:

1 Samuel 9-10 presents a complex picture of Israel's transition to kingship. While God responds to their desire for security, He also highlights the dangers of rejecting His authority and embracing the ways of the world. The introduction and anointing of Saul are fraught with foreshadowing, hinting at the challenges and consequences that lie ahead. The lesson emphasizes God's grace and sovereignty, while also serving as a cautionary tale about the importance of seeking God's will above all else.

4. Study Guide: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 7, 1 Samuel 9-10 – Meet Israel's New King

1 & 2 Samuel, Session 7, 1 Samuel 9-10: Meet Israel's New King - Study Guide

I. Review of Key Concepts

A. Israel's Request for a King (Recap from 1 Samuel 8)

- **Rejection of God:** Israel's desire for a king "like all the nations" was viewed as a rejection of God's kingship and providential care.
- **Desire for Security:** The Israelites sought a king with a standing army to provide them with national security, particularly against threats like the Ammonites.
- **Samuel's Warning:** Samuel warned the people about the oppressive nature of earthly kings and the potential consequences of their request.

B. Introduction of Saul (1 Samuel 9)

- **Saul's Background:** Saul is introduced as the son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin, and described as a handsome and tall young man, fitting the superficial appearance of a king.
- **The Lost Donkeys:** The narrative begins with Saul's search for his father's lost donkeys, which leads him to Samuel, the prophet.
- **God's Providence:** The seemingly random events are presented as orchestrated by God's providence, guiding Saul to Samuel for his anointing.

C. Saul's Hesitant Character

- **Hesitation and Lack of Spiritual Insight:** Saul is portrayed as hesitant, lacking spiritual insight, and concerned about financial matters when dealing with the prophet.
- **Foreshadowing:** The servant's comment that "everything he says comes true" foreshadows Samuel's future pronouncements of judgment against Saul.

D. Samuel's Anointing of Saul (1 Samuel 10)

- **Private Anointing:** Samuel privately anoints Saul with oil, signifying his selection as ruler over Israel.

- **Threefold Sign:** Samuel gives Saul a threefold sign to confirm that God is with him:
 1. Meeting men who will tell him the donkeys have been found.
 2. Encountering men on their way to worship who will offer him bread.
 3. Joining a procession of prophets and being filled with the Spirit.
- **Saul's Changed Heart:** God changes Saul's heart, and the signs are fulfilled.

E. Saul's Inaction

- **Failure to Attack Philistine Outpost:** Despite the signs and Samuel's implicit instruction, Saul does not attack the Philistine outpost at Gibeah.
- **Obsession with Religious Ritual:** Instead of military action, Saul goes to the high place to worship.
- **Hiding and Hesitation:** Saul hides among the supplies when chosen as king at Mizpah, demonstrating his continued reluctance.

F. Samuel's Speech at Mizpah

- **Reminder of God's Deliverance:** Samuel reminds the people of God's past deliverance from Egypt and other oppressors.
- **Rejection of God as King:** He emphasizes that their desire for a king is a rejection of God.
- **Official Recognition of Saul:** Saul is officially recognized as king, but his initial reluctance is evident.

G. Rights and Duties of Kingship

- **Deuteronomy 17:** Samuel explains the rights and duties of kingship, likely based on Deuteronomy 17, which outlines the limitations and responsibilities of a king in Israel.
- **King Not Like All the Nations:** The king is not to accumulate horses, wives, or wealth, and he is to follow God's law.

H. Reactions to Saul's Kingship

- **Valiant Men and Scoundrels:** Some valiant men follow Saul, but some scoundrels (sons of Belial) reject him.

- **Saul's Silence:** Saul keeps silent in the face of rejection.

I. Themes

- **God's Faithfulness Despite Israel's Lack of Faith:** Even when Israel's faith falls short, God remains faithful and provides for their deliverance.
- **The Lord Decides the Form of Leadership:** God places restrictions on the king and maintains control over his covenant community.
- **Discipline for Rejecting God's Authority:** God may discipline his people by allowing them to experience the consequences of their foolish choices.

II. Quiz (Short Answer)

1. Why was Israel's request for a king seen as a rejection of God?
2. Describe Saul's physical appearance and why it was significant.
3. What was the purpose of Saul's search for his father's lost donkeys?
4. How does the text portray Saul's character during his encounter with Samuel?
5. What were the three signs Samuel gave Saul to confirm his anointing?
6. What was Saul supposed to do after the Spirit of the Lord came upon him?
7. What action did Saul fail to take, despite Samuel's instructions?
8. What does Samuel remind the people of in his speech at Mizpah?
9. According to Deuteronomy 17, what limitations were placed on the Israelite king?
10. What does the fact that Saul was named Shaul ("asked for") mean in light of the events of 1 Samuel 8-10?

III. Answer Key (Quiz)

1. Israel's request for a king was a rejection of God because they were essentially stating that they did not trust God to protect and provide for them as He had done in the past. They wanted a human king like the other nations, rather than relying on God's divine rule.
2. Saul was described as a handsome and tall young man. This was significant because, from a superficial human perspective, he looked like he would make a good king, fitting the expectations of what a king should look like.

3. The search for the lost donkeys served as a plot device to bring Saul to Samuel, the prophet, so that he could be anointed as king. It demonstrates how God's providence was at work, orchestrating events to fulfill His plan.
4. Saul is portrayed as hesitant, lacking spiritual insight, and more concerned about the financial aspects of consulting the prophet than about seeking God's will. This hesitation and lack of spiritual depth foreshadow his later failures as king.
5. The three signs were: (1) meeting two men who would tell him the donkeys had been found, (2) encountering three men on their way to worship who would offer him two loaves of bread, and (3) joining a procession of prophets and being filled with the Spirit of the Lord.
6. After the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, Saul was supposed to do whatever his hand found to do, which is interpreted as attacking the Philistine outpost at Gibeah, thus beginning the deliverance of Israel from its enemies.
7. Saul failed to attack the Philistine outpost at Gibeah. This was the initial action Samuel implied he should take, demonstrating his immediate obedience and commitment to delivering Israel.
8. Samuel reminds the people of God's past deliverance from Egypt and other oppressors, emphasizing that their desire for a king is a rejection of God, who had been their true king and protector.
9. According to Deuteronomy 17, the Israelite king was not to acquire great numbers of horses or chariots, take many wives, or accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. He was to follow God's law and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites.
10. Saul's name ("asked for") constantly reminded Israel of their sin in asking for a king. The fact that they got the "asked for" king meant that the people may get what they wanted, but it also meant that it was a result of their sin in asking for something they should not have wanted in the first place.

IV. Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of Saul's hesitation and lack of spiritual insight in 1 Samuel 9-10. How do these characteristics foreshadow his later failures as king?
2. Discuss the theological implications of Israel's request for a king in 1 Samuel 8, and how God responds to their request in 1 Samuel 9-10.
3. Compare and contrast the concept of kingship presented in 1 Samuel 8 and Deuteronomy 17. How does God's vision for a king differ from the people's desires?
4. Examine the role of God's providence in the events of 1 Samuel 9-10. How does God orchestrate events to bring about his purposes despite human choices?
5. Evaluate the theme of "be careful what you ask for" in 1 Samuel 9-10. How does the story of Saul's anointing and early actions illustrate this theme?

V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Nagid:** Hebrew word meaning "ruler" or "leader," used by God to describe Saul in 1 Samuel 9. It suggests a vice-regent under God's authority, in contrast to *Melek*.
- **Melek:** Hebrew word for "king," used by the people in 1 Samuel 8 when they requested a king "like all the nations."
- **Providence:** God's active involvement in human history, orchestrating events to fulfill His purposes while working within human freedom and circumstances.
- **Seer:** An old term for "prophet," used during Saul's time. Seers were believed to receive visions from the Lord.
- **Foreshadowing:** A literary device where an event or statement hints at future events in the story.
- **Lot:** A method of casting lots or drawing straws, used to make decisions.
- **Sons of Belial:** Hebrew phrase referring to "worthless" or "scoundrel" sons, often used to describe wicked or rebellious individuals.

5. FAQs on Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 7, 1 Samuel 9-10 – Meet Israel's New King, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

1 Samuel 9-10 FAQ:

1. Why were the Israelites asking for a king in 1 Samuel 8, and what was wrong with their request?

The Israelites requested a king "like all the nations" primarily because they desired national security, particularly due to threats from the Ammonites. They wanted a standing army and a visible leader to deliver them. This request was viewed as a rejection of God's rule, as God had historically protected and delivered Israel through judges and direct intervention. They were essentially seeking security in a human king rather than trusting in God's provision.

2. How did Samuel initially respond to Israel's request for a king, and what might have been his underlying motivation?

Samuel was disappointed and warned the Israelites about the negative consequences of having a king. He detailed how a king would oppress them by taking their sons for his army, seizing their crops, and exploiting their resources. After this warning, Samuel initially sent the people home, seemingly delaying the process. This delay might have been a form of intercession, giving God an opportunity to reconsider and potentially avert the negative consequences of their request, similar to Moses' intercession on behalf of the Israelites in other situations.

3. What is the significance of Saul's name, and how does it relate to the events of 1 Samuel 8 and later chapters?

Saul's name, Sha'ul in Hebrew, means "asked for." This directly connects to Israel's act of "asking for" a king in 1 Samuel 8. His name serves as a constant reminder of Israel's sin in desiring a king like the other nations. Later, in 1 Samuel 12, the prophet refers to Saul as the king they asked for, further emphasizing the link between their desire and his kingship.

4.

What role does God's providence play in the story of Saul's anointing as king?

Despite Israel's misdirected desire for a king, God's providence is evident in orchestrating the events leading to Saul's anointing. Even seemingly random occurrences, such as Saul's search for his father's lost donkeys, are used by God to guide Saul to Samuel, the prophet who would anoint him. This demonstrates that God is still working to provide for His people, even when they are not fully aligned with His will.

5. What is the difference between "Melek" and "Nagid," and why is it significant that God refers to Saul as a "Nagid"?

"Melek" is the Hebrew word for "king," which is what the people requested. "Nagid," on the other hand, means "ruler" or "leader." God's use of "Nagid" to describe Saul indicates that He is not completely surrendering control to the people's desires. A "Nagid" in this context suggests a vice-regent, one who rules under God's authority, rather than an absolute monarch like the kings of other nations. This shows that God intends to maintain His sovereignty over Israel, even with a human leader.

6. What were the signs Samuel gave Saul to confirm his anointing, and what was Saul expected to do after receiving these signs?

Samuel provided Saul with a threefold sign: 1) He would meet men near Rachel's tomb who would tell him the donkeys had been found. 2) He would encounter three men at the great tree of Tabor going to worship who would offer him two loaves of bread. 3) He would meet a procession of prophets at Gibeah of God, the Spirit of the Lord would come upon him, and he would prophesy. After these signs were fulfilled, Saul was expected to "do whatever his hand finds to do," implying that he should immediately engage in military action by attacking the Philistine outpost and begin to deliver Israel from their enemies. After this he was to wait for Samuel at Gilgal.

7. How does Saul's behavior following his anointing and the fulfillment of the signs reflect his character and foreshadow future events?

Saul's behavior after the signs reveals several key aspects of his character: He hesitated to attack the Philistine outpost as instructed. Instead, he went to the high place to worship. He didn't immediately share with his uncle about being chosen as King. He was also found hiding among the baggage when he was supposed to be crowned in a public ceremony. This highlights his hesitancy, lack of initiative, obsession with religious ritual over simple obedience, and a certain level of spiritual unawareness. These traits foreshadow his later disobedience and ultimate failure as king.

8. According to the lesson, what are the main themes that emerge from 1 Samuel 9-10?

The main themes are:

- Even when God's people's faith falls short, God remains faithful and makes provision for their deliverance.
- The Lord decides the form of leadership for His covenant community and places restrictions on what the leader can do.
- God may give His people a taste of what they want as a form of discipline, highlighting the importance of trusting in His wisdom and authority.
- God may discipline them by letting them experience the consequences of their behavior.