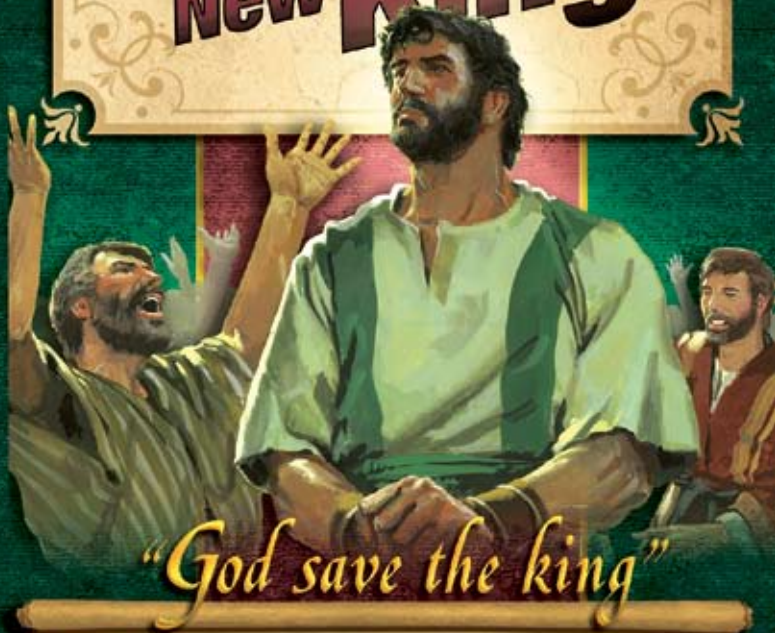


Psa. 23:4  
 Yea, though I walk  
 through the valley of the  
 shadow of death, I will  
 fear no evil: for thou art  
 with me; thy rod and thy  
 staff they comfort me.



# Saul, the New King



*"God save the king"*

Saul stood higher than anyone,  
 from his shoulders and upward.

*"And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom  
 the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him  
 among all the people? And all the people shouted,  
 God save the king."*

I Sam. 10:24

## Q and A?

*Why would Israel want a king?*

Imagine the questions strangers asked  
 when passing through Israel,

**Question**— "Where does your king live?"

**Answer**: "We don't have a king."

**Question**— "Who governs your land?"

**Answer**: "Our God."

**Question**— "How can a God you can't  
 see **govern** a land?"

Israel, wanting to be like other nations, was  
 probably embarrassed to be so different.

But Israel's government was a **theocracy**—  
 governed by God, and He was their King.

Scripture to read before next study

I Sam. 11, 12, 13, 14:1–23

## Samuel's prayers

Israel gathered with Samuel in Mizpeh. They confessed their sin and asked Samuel to pray that God would deliver them from the Philistines.



When the Philistines came against Israel, Samuel prayed. And God sent such great thunder it scared the Philistines, and they came no more against Israel all the days of Samuel.

Samuel won Israel's battles through prayer.

## Looking for lost animals

Saul's father sent him to round up his lost donkeys—a simple, unglamorous task for herdmen. While searching for his father's animals, Saul found that God would make him king over Israel.



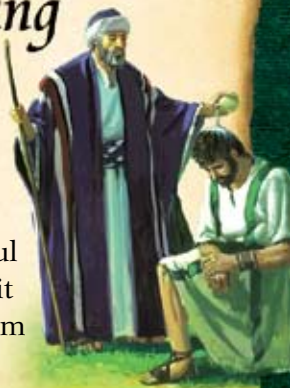
## God in simple things

Often simple, everyday routines of life bring our greatest blessings. We're not to sit dreaming for something spectacular to happen, but be faithful in everyday duties. God works in our routines; for there, we either win or lose in the game of life. A wise servant of God said, "You don't find happiness by looking for it; you stumble across it on the path of duty." God is usually in the humdrum of life if we have eyes to see Him. Therefore, we should not despise the day of little things, nor live from one spiritual peak to another, but learn to be content by seeing God in little things.

## Saul anointed king

*"Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and... said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?"*

Samuel privately anoints Saul the first king of Israel. The Spirit of God came on Saul to equip him for kingly responsibilities. 10:1



## Circuit-riding Judge

Samuel judged Israel by going each year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpeh. We could say he was the first circuit-riding Judge. He gave the people God's judgment, taught them God's laws, and, no doubt, encouraged them to pray about matters. He judged Israel throughout his life.

His sons were judges in Beersheba, but they were not good judges, for they took bribes and perverted judgment.

## Israel wants a king

It grieved Samuel to hear Israel wanted a king. He thought they were rejecting his leadership. But God said, "No, they reject My leadership, and they want a king like other nations." Most people want to be like everyone else.

God told Samuel to tell the people all the disadvantages of having a king. When they heard that, they still wanted a king. Later, God told Samuel—

He would give Israel a king.