

## Saul, the New King

## Teacher Preparation

1. Study lesson.
  - Scripture **I Sam. Ch. 7:7–17**  
Ch. 8, 9, 10
2. Visuals • Key Verse 4 **Psa. 23:4**  
• Map 1 Samuel Map
3. Objectives: To learn—
  - Samuel's sons/problems;
  - people want a king;
  - Saul anointed king and
  - hides when introduced.

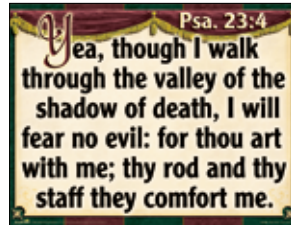
## Lesson 4

\*—Teacher reads, as class follows.

Today, **Psa. 23**, verse 4 is—

## A Key Verse

**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.*



As a shepherd, David often met **danger**, and to protect his sheep, he killed a **bear** and a **lion**. Later, people would try to **kill** him, but he knew God was with him. And God's chastening, like his **rod and staff**, would **comfort** him.

## Samuel prays

Samuel judged Israel many years. Everyone knew he was a man of **prayer** and had **unusual power** with God. Perhaps, he followed the example of Hannah, his **praying mother**.

At Mizpeh, Israel had a **spiritual revival**, confessing their sin and getting right with God. When the **Philistines** heard **Israel** was gathered at **Mizpeh**, then they came **again** to **attack** Israel. And the people asked Samuel—

**I Sam. 7:8** *Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.*

And “**Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel, and the LORD heard him**”

(vs. 9). It then began to **thunder** with such **power**, it **frightened** the Philistines, and they were **smitten** before Israel. The **thunder** fulfilled his mother's **prophetic prayer**, “*out of heaven shall he thunder upon them*” (2:10), which **Hannah** had prayed **before Samuel** was **born**.

**I Sam. 7:13** *So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.*

**Vs. 14** ...And there was **peace** between **Israel** and the **Amorites**.

Amazingly, the **Philistines** came **no more** against Israel **all the days of Samuel**. He won Israel's **battles** through **prayer**.

**Psa. 99:6** speaks of Samuel as a man of **prayer**.

“*Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.*” And **Jer. 15:1** “*Though Moses and Samuel stood before me (prayer), yet my mind could not be toward this people.*”

## Circuit-riding Judge

**Vs. 15** *And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. 16 And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.*

17 *And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.*

Samuel started a **new and effective system** for

judging Israel. Each year, he went on a **circuit** to **Bethel**, **Gilgal**, and **Mizpeh**, then returned to **Ramah**.

He did not wait for people to come to him; he went to them and gave them God's judgment and law. No doubt, he also **stressed** they earnestly **pray**. Through his **spiritual influence**, Israel **recovered** from the evil conditions in the last part of the book of Judges.



Samuel “**judged Israel all the days of his life**”, which was probably many **years** and occurred after events in **Ch. 7** and before the events in **Ch. 8**. During that time, Samuel continued his **circuit** as a Judge, and all of Israel’s **enemies** were **quiet** and peaceful.

#### Samuel’s sons

**I Sam. 8:1** *And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.*

**Vs. 3** *And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.*

His **sons** had serious **problems**, which grieved Samuel. They were judges in Beersheba, southern Israel. Though Samuel **walked uprightly** before God, his **sons did not**. And word **spread** about his sons.

#### “Give us a king”

\*Teacher reads, as class follows.

**Vs. 4** *Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, <sup>5</sup> And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. <sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.*

When problems came, Samuel **prayed**. And God answered him.

**Vs. 7** *And the LORD said unto Samuel, Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.*

<sup>8</sup> *According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.*

For them to request a king, **grieved** Samuel. But God assured him—they were rejecting **Him**, and not Samuel. They wanted a **king** so they could be like other nations.

#### Questions?

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 was probably embarrassed to be so different. They wanted to be like other nations. But Israel’s government was a **theocracy**—governed by God, and He was their King.

#### Different or like the world?

People, who want to be like everyone else, say, “Everybody is doing it”, and this **sways** most people. But those who seek to follow God are not swayed by the crowd that’s going the **wrong** direction. The **right** way is often lonely, but it is the way of God’s **blessings**.

God’s desire for Israel was—for them to be **godly**, so they could receive His blessings and be His testimony in an evil world. God still wants believers to be **godly** and receive His blessings, and be a testimony before an evil world. God told Samuel—

#### Life under a king

**8:9** *Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.*

The next verses describe **life** under a **king**—how it would be **difficult** and very **hard**. Samuel **warned**—that their sons and daughters would be **conscripted** to serve the king. Their **land** would be **taken** for the king, and they would have heavy **taxes**. He also warned—the day would come when Israel’s **hardships** would be almost unbearable. But these warnings did not change the people’s minds.

#### We want a king

\*Teacher reads, as class follows.

**Vs. 19** *Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;*

<sup>20</sup> *That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.*



*21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, **Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.** And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, **Go ye every man unto his city.***

Israel **rejected** God's advice and insisted, "We want a king." God told Samuel—He would give Israel a king. Sometimes God gives us our **request**, and later, we discover—it only brought **grief and sorrow**. Israel will get an earthly king. But God did not relinquish—His being their **King**. Years later, in Isa. 43:15 God said, "*I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.*"

#### Looks for donkeys/will be a king

\*Teacher reads, as class follows.

**Ch. 9:1** *Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish....*

**Vs. 2** *And he had a son, whose name was **Saul**, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was **not** among the children of Israel a **goodlier person than he**: from his shoulders and upward he was **higher than any of the people**.*

This tall, handsome, goodly man was the **best** of Israel's sons. **Saul** had everything to **qualify** him as Israel's **new king**.

**Vs. 3** *And the asses (donkeys) of Kish, Saul's father were **lost**. And Kish said to **Saul** his son, **Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses**.*

Saul went to **round up** the lost donkeys—a simple, unglamorous task for herdmen. While searching for his father's animals, he discovers—**God** is going to 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 or hoping for something spectacular to happen, but be faithful in everyday duties. God works in our routines of life, 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 usually works in the humdrum of daily living—if we have **eyes** to **see** Him. We should never despise the day of little things, nor live from one spiritual peak to another, but learn to be **content** by seeing God in the little routines of life.

They searched diligently over a wide area, but did not find the animals.

Saul's **servant** suggested—maybe **God** could help them **find** the animals, and they should **inquire** from a **man of God**. This servant was evidently God-fearing. They came and inquired of the man of God, who **happened** to be Samuel.

#### God names Saul—king

\*Teacher reads, as class follows.

**9:15** *Now the LORD had **told Samuel** in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, <sup>16</sup> **To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be **captain** over my people Israel, that he may **save my people** out of the hand of the **Philistines**: for I have looked upon my people, because **their cry** is come unto me.***

The day before, Samuel knew about their **visit**. And he told **Saul**—his father's **donkeys** were already **found**.

**Vs. 17** *And when Samuel saw **Saul**, the LORD said unto him, **Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people**.*

And Samuel told Saul—**God** had **chosen** him to **reign** over Israel.

**Vs. 21** *And Saul answered and said, **Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the **tribes** of Israel? and my **family** the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?***

Notice Saul's **humility**—he was from the **smallest tribe** and **least** family in the tribe. Samuel invited Saul and his servant to stay for the **feast**. Among the **30** people, Saul is given the **chief** place, the **best** food, and is treated royally by the elderly Samuel.

At the end of the feast, Samuel leaves with Saul and his servant.

**Vs. 27** And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to **Saul**, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but **stand thou still** a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.

### Saul anointed king

**10:1** Then Samuel took a vial of **oil**, and **poured** it upon his **head**, and **kissed** him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be **captain** over his inheritance?

Samuel privately anoints Saul—king of Israel. **Oil** represents the **Spirit** of God **anointing Saul** to be Israel's first **king**—to equip him for his special responsibility. Samuel tells **Saul**—

\*Teacher reads, as class follows.

**Vs. 6** And the **Spirit of the LORD** will come upon thee, and thou shalt **prophesy** with them, and shalt be **turned** into another man.

<sup>7</sup> And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee. <sup>8</sup> And thou shalt go down before me to **Gilgal**; and, behold, **I will** come down unto thee, to offer **burnt offerings**, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, **till I come** to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

<sup>9</sup> And it was so, that when he had **turned his back to go** from Samuel, God **gave** him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. <sup>10</sup> And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the **Spirit of God** came upon him, and he **prophesied** among them.

### Saul hides

Samuel then called the people to Mizpeh, and said—

**Vs. 19** And ye have this day **rejected** your **God**, who himself **saved** you out of all your **adversities** and your **tribulations**; and ye have said unto him, **Nay**, but **set a king** over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

Samuel was to **announce Saul** as king, but Saul could **not** be found.

**Vs. 22** Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath **hid himself** among the **stuff**. <sup>23</sup> And they ran and **fetch**ed him thence: and when he **stood** among the people, he was **higher** than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

<sup>24</sup> 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, and said, **God save the king**.

Perhaps from **humility**, or **fear**—Saul **hid** himself. When he did appear, he stood **higher** than anyone in the **crowd**. And all the people said, **“God save the king.”**

\*Teacher reads, as class follows.

**Vs. 25** Then **Samuel** told the people the **manner** of the kingdom, and **wrote** it in a **book**, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. <sup>26</sup> And **Saul** also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of **men**, whose **hearts** God had touched. <sup>27</sup> But the children of **Belial** said, How shall this man save us? And they **despised** him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

Saul's **self-control** toward personal enemies showed a mark of godliness.

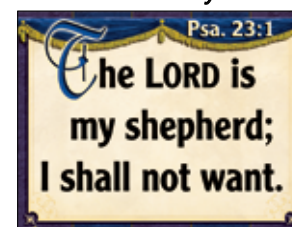
Israel now had a **king**, and the people were **happy**. If we let God be our King, **we** will be very happy.

Let's conclude by saying **Psalm 23 Vs. 1** through **4**.

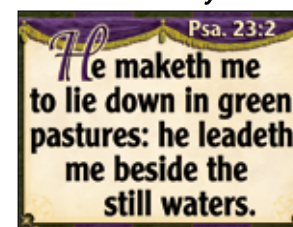
### Key Verses

Psa. 23:1–4 →

Key Verse 1

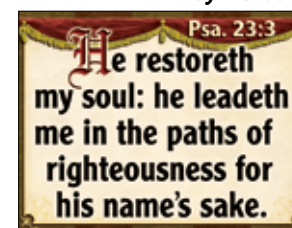


Key Verse 2

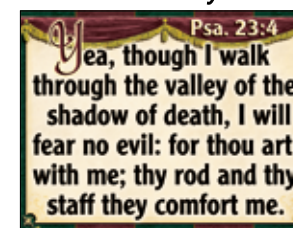


### Prayer

Key Verse 3



Key Verse 4



As class exits, Asst. gives out **Compass #4**.



Scripture to read before next study

I Sam. 11, 12, 13, 14:1–23