

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

1 SAMUEL 9

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I Samuel nine, Saul of the tribe of Benjamin is chosen to be the first king of Israel. The Bible describes him in chapter nine as **"a choice and handsome son"** and that **"there was not a more handsome person among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people."** It is truly amazing how people do not know when they have it made. Samuel was a great man of God, but the people could not be content. God had blessed for decades, but the nation found fault in everything. The old saying is, "You don't miss the water until the well runs dry" and that is about to be true in the life of the nation of Israel. **"And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places. But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the Lord."** (I Samuel 7:15-17).

Saul's father was named Kish and he was a man of means and had donkeys that had wandered away and were lost,

so he sent his son Saul to look for them. Saul went far and wide and could not locate his fathers' donkeys. In frustration Saul said to those with him, we need to go back home, because my father will be more concerned about us than about the animals. Saul suggested that they go to the next city where the "man of God" was in the custom of visiting and they would inquire of him as to whether they should go back home or continue to look for the donkeys. It was the custom of that day to not ask a man of God for something unless you gave him a gift, as this was his means of living. There is an explanatory note in v.9 about a prophet being called a "Seer" as the word in Hebrew is "ro'eh" from the word "ra'ah" to see. A prophet was one who "saw" that is discerned the word of God. His spiritual perception was that he spoke the Word of God that was so sure, it was as though he could "see" the future.

Prayer and Action Steps

Pray for discernment in trusting God's written Word for direction in your life.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
