

Israel in Danger: The Reign of King Saul Part I

The First King of Israel

The Correct Way to Select a King!

- ▶ The Torah never forbid Israel from having a king!
- ▶ Instead, the Torah gave guidelines on how Israel was to select and anoint a king.
- ▶ Those guidelines were set out in Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
 - 14. When you are come unto the land which Yahuah Elohayka gives you, and shall possess it, and shall dwell therein, and shall say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;
 - 15. You shall in any wise set him king over you, whom Yahuah Elohayka shall choose: one from among your brethren shall you set king over you: you may not set a stranger over you, which is not your brother. (Deuteronomy 17:14-15)

The Correct Way to Select a King!

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- ▶ You shall in any wise set him king over you, whom Yahuah Elohayka shall choose: one from among your brethren shall you set king over you: you may not set a stranger over you, which is not your brother. (Deuteronomy 17:15)
- ▶ The Torah specifies that the king of Israel must be an Israelite. He cannot have any foreign lineage in him.
- ▶ The U.S. Constitution used the Torah standard by specifying that the President should be “Native Born” meaning that not only should the president be born in the United States, but his parents must be born in the USA as well. Kamala Harris, Barak Obama, and the Bushes do not meet that qualification and took the office illegally.

The Guidelines for a King to Rule Over Israel

- ▶ Those guidelines were set forth in Deuteronomy 17:16-20.
 - 16. But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Mitsrayim (Egypt), to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as Yahuah has said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. (Deuteronomy 17:16)
 - ▶ The number of horses held two elements:
 - ▶ A symbol of wealth and power for the king.
 - ▶ The ability for a king to go to war... horses and chariots are the ancient equivalent for the modern-day tank.
 - ▶ The modern-day drone would take out both the tank and chariot.
 - ▶ Horses were abundant in Egypt... kings might be tempted to visit for many stately reasons and grow accustomed to living there again.

The Guidelines for a King to Rule Over Israel

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- ▶ Those guidelines were set forth in Deuteronomy 17:16-20.
 - 17. Neither shall he multiply women to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. (Deuteronomy 17:17)
- ▶ Every woman you have a relationship with creates an intimate soul tie with you. In the case of a king, having a relationship with too many women allows evil spirits of all types to pass through to the king, causing them to depart from the Torah.
- ▶ When a king uses his office to enhance their own wealth, their rule often becomes a method of protecting that wealth.

The Guidelines for a King to Rule Over Israel

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- ▶ Those guidelines were set forth in Deuteronomy 17:16-20.
 - 18. And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:
 - 19. And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear YHWH his Elohim, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them... (Deuteronomy 17:18-19)
 - ▶ As a child, the prospective king is to write out a copy of the entire Torah to use when they finally ascend the throne.
 - ▶ When he is king, he is to keep his copy of the Torah with him and use it as a guideline to rule the kingdom. Ginzberg states that King David and other kings had a Torah teacher on staff to instruct them every day.

The Guidelines for a King to Rule Over Israel

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- ▶ Those guidelines were set forth in Deuteronomy 17:16-20.
 - 20. That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel. (Deuteronomy 17:20)
- ▶ These guidelines are designed to maintain the king as a servant of the people, not as a dictator, and not to get wealthy at the expense of the people.
- ▶ To ensure that Israel follows the Law of the Torah so that the kingdom will continue to exist.

Why Israel Wanted a King???

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- ▶ The situation that brought Israel to that moment:
 1. And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.
 2. Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beer-sheba.
 3. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. (1 Samuel 8:1-3)
- ▶ The Levym (tribe of Levi) were supposed to be the priestly class over Israel, not the ruling class. However, this was necessary because the ruling class was under a curse.

The Curse on the Tribe of Israel:

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- ▶ The Torah specifically teaches:
 - 2. A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of YHWH; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of YHWH.
(Deuteronomy 23:2)
- ▶ The Tribe of Judah was under a curse because its head: Judah had children with his son's wife under false pretenses. (See Genesis 38) This made the subsequent children "bastards" meaning they could not even be part of the congregation of YHWH.
- ▶ That also precluded them from being on the throne of Israel.

The Genealogy of the Tribe of Judah from Ruth 4:19-22

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1. Judah – He committed adultery with his daughter-in-law Tamar and was cursed.
2. Pharez – The “firstborn” of Judah. The Pharisees claim his heritage despite the fact that they are Hasmodean (Sons of Esau/Edom). “Sons of Pharez”
3. Hezron
4. Ram
5. Amminadab
6. Nahshon
7. Salmon – married Rahab the Harlot
8. Boaz – Married Ruth the Moabitess
9. Obed
10. Jesse
11. David – The second king of Israel – The curse is lifted!

Samuel's Warnings About Having a King

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- ▶ And Samuel told all the words of YHWH unto the people that asked of him a king.
- ▶ And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.
- ▶ And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. (I Samuel 8:10-12)
 - ▶ Samuel warns that kings will draft people to work for them, that will mean they are not at home earning a living for their extended families.
 - ▶ He also warns that a king will draft people for wars the kings want to fight that the people may or may not agree with.

Samuel's Warnings About Having a King

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13. And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. (1 Samuel 8:13)
- ▶ In ancient times, they even drafted women to work in the palace for the king, meaning they are also not at home.
 - ▶ Samuel is trying to get the Israelites to understand that having a king will be parasitic to their economy.
 - ▶ Kings by taking men, women, and property create an artificial bureaucracy that will also be parasitic to the Israelite economy.

Samuel's Warnings About Having a King

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14. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. (I Samuel 8:14)
- ▶ Samuel warns that kings will have the power of “Eminent Domain” meaning that they can take property without proper compensation.
 - ▶ However, one exception to this proposition was King David in II Samuel 24:19-25. He insisted upon paying Araunah fifty shekels of silver.
 - ▶ Another time, King David paid Ornan the Jebusite six hundred shekels of gold for his threshingfloor. (I Chronicles 21:18-30, esp. verse 25)
 - ▶ The U.S. Constitution applied this principle in the Fifth Amendment.

Samuel's Warnings About Having a King

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15. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.
16. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.
17. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. (1 Samuel 8:15-17)
 - ▶ In these verses, Samuel warns about the taxation that kings will impose on the Israelites to finance the operations of their palace, their military, and other governmental operations.
 - ▶ Verse 16 refers to indentured servants who were Israelites who sold themselves for a period of time for a specific price. He suggests that kings could interfere with this contractual relationship by taking ownership of those servants.

Samuel's Warnings About Having a King

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18. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and YHWH will not hear you in that day. (I Samuel 8:18)

- ▶ This remains Samuel's final warning to Israel about having a king.
- ▶ He warns that people that one day they will cry out because of the king that is ruling over them.
- ▶ But when they do, YHWH will not hear their cry because they were duly warned about what would happen.

The Selection of a King

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1. Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.
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. (I Samuel 9:1-2)
 - ▶ Saul came from the Tribe of Benjamin... he was handsome... and taller than all other Israelites.
 - ▶ Some scholars suggest he had some *Nephilim* blood in him.
 - ▶ His attractiveness would make him more acceptable to the people.

The Selection of a King

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15. Now YHWH had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,
16. 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.
17. And when Samuel saw Saul, YHWH said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people. (I Samuel 9:15-17)
 - ▶ The appointment of Saul was commanded by YHWH.
 - ▶ His direct objective was to save the people out of the hands of the Philistines.
 - ▶ This was an objective King Saul never completed.
 - ▶ It instead destroyed him and his kingdom.

The Selection of a King

18

1. Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because YHWH hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?
2. When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?
3. Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to Elohim to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:
4. And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands. (I Samuel 10:1-4)

The Selection of a King

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- ▶ Samuel has unwittingly tested Saul to see if he can follow instructions.
- ▶ He's told that the livestock which his family had lost was found, but they were wondering what happened to Saul.
- ▶ He will run into two men, one holding three baby goats, and the other holding three loaves of bread. They will salute him by giving him two of the three loaves of bread.
- ▶ However, the biggest test is yet to come.

The Selection of a King

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5. After that thou shalt come to the hill of Elohim, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery (harp, harpsichord, and later a piano), and a tabret (tambourine the first percussion instrument), and a pipe (flute, forerunner of the organ), and a harp (forerunner of the guitar), before them; and they shall prophesy:
6. And the Spirit of YHWH will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.
7. And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for Elohim is with thee. (I Samuel 10:5-7)
 - ▶ The tests continue... can he receive the Holy Spirit?

A Psaltery

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A Harpsichord

22



An Early Piano

A Very Early Version Invented by Bartolomeo Cristofori
c. 1700



The Selection of a King

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9. And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, Elohim gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.
10. And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of Elohim came upon him, and he prophesied among them.
11. And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets? (I Samuel 10:9-11)
 - ▶ Samuel prophesied with the company of prophets... The Ruach of Elohim came on him and accepted him.
 - ▶ Some wondered if Saul had become a prophet?

The Selection of a King

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12. And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets?
13. And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.
14. And Saul's uncle said unto him and to his servant, Whither went ye? And he said, To seek the asses: and when we saw that they were no where, we came to Samuel.
15. And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you.
16. And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not. (I Samuel 10:12-16)
 - ▶ Finally, Saul's uncle tracked him down and wanted an accounting of his activities.
 - ▶ Saul explained to his uncle that when he could not find the asses, he went to the prophet Samuel to get help. He explained that the asses had been found.

The Selection of a King

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17. And Samuel called the people together unto YHWH to Mizpeh;
18. And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith YHWH Elohim of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you:
19. And ye have this day rejected your Elohim, 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 YHWH by your tribes, and by your thousands.
20. And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken. (1 Samuel 10:17-20)
 - ▶ Samuel recounted the demand the Israelites had for a king and then started the process.
 - ▶ He first singled out the Tribe of Benjamin...

The Selection of a King

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21. When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.
22. Therefore they inquired of YHWH further, if the man should yet come thither. And YHWH answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.
23. And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.
24. And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom YHWH hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, "Elohim save the king!" (I Samuel 10:21-24)
 - This showed that Saul was humble... humility a strong quality for a king.

The Selection of a King – Trouble in the Camp?

28

- 25. Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before YHWH. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.
- 26. And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts Elohim had touched.
- 27. 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. (I Samuel 10:25-27)
 - ▶ This is yet another missing book that should be in the Bible.
 - ▶ However, some of the men refused to go home, but followed along with Saul.
 - ▶ Belial is a demon who encourages people to be worthless, of little use to anyone, *etc.*

The First Test of Leadership-

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1. Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabesh-gilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee. And
2. Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.
3. And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if there be no man to save us, we will come out to thee. (I Samuel 11:1-3)
 - ▶ The Ammonites (Sons of Lot) move on a city of the Israelites and want the Israelites to give up their right eyes.
 - ▶ This Israelite encampment sends messengers out to let the rest of Israel know what is going on.
 - ▶ How is King Saul going to deal with this situation?

The First Test of Leadership-

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4. Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.
 5. And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What aileth the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.
 6. And the Spirit of Elohim came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.
 7. And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of YHWH fell on the people, and they came out with one consent. (I Samuel 11:4-7)
- With this situation, the Israelites were obliged to answer the call!

The First Test of Leadership-

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8. And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.
9. And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabesh-gilead, To morrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.
10. Therefore the men of Jabesh said, Tomorrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you. (I Samuel 11:8-10)
 - ▶ King Saul raised 330,000 men that day. That was a huge army for that time.
 - ▶ He marched those men to Jabesh-Gilead where they would lay in wait for the Ammonites. The Ammonites had no idea what they were in for.

The First Test of Leadership-

32

11. And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.
12. And the people said unto Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.
13. And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day YHWH hath wrought salvation in Israel. (I Samuel 11:11-13)
 - ▶ The result of the battle was a rout! The enemy was completely defeated.
 - ▶ As King, Saul asserted himself that day and they accepted him as their king.

The First Test of Leadership-

33

14. Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.
15. And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before YHWH in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before YHWH; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly. (I Samuel 11:14-15)
 - ▶ The conclusion of this battle convinced the people that Saul was their king.
 - ▶ Samuel was able to return back to his role as prophet and priest.
 - ▶ Gilgal is where the Israelites went when they crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land. (Joshua 5:9-10)