

9[1] And there was a man from Benjamin, and his name was Kish,¹ son of Abiel,² son of Zeror,³ son of Bechorath,⁴ son of Aphiah,⁵ son of a Jaminite man,⁶ a mighty man of valor. [2] And to him was a son, and his name was Saul,⁷ a young man and good. And there was not a man from sons of Israel as good as him from his shoulder and upwards, taller than all the people.

[3] And the female donkeys were lost to Kish, Saul's father, and Kish said to Saul his son, "Please take with you one from the boys and arise and go, seek for the female donkeys." [4] And he passed over on mount Ephraim and passed over in the land of Shalisha,⁸ and they did not find. And they passed over in the land of Shaalim,⁹ and there was nothing. And they passed over in the land of the Jaminite, and they did not find.

[5] And they came in to the land of Zuph, and Saul said to his young man that was with him, "Come and let's return, lest my father cease from the female donkeys and be anxious for us." [6] And he said to him, "Look, please, a man of Gods is in this city, and the man is honored. All that he says surely comes. Now, let's go there. Perhaps, he shall declare to us our way upon which we should go." [7] And Saul said to his boy, "So look, we go, and what shall we bring to the man? For the bread is gone from our vessels, and there is no gift to bring to the man of the Gods. What is with us?"

[8] And the boy again answered Saul and said, "Look, it is found in my hand four shekels of silver, and I shall give to the man of the Gods; and he will declare to us our way." [9] Before in Israel, thus the man in going to inquire of Gods he would say, "Come and let us go unto the Seer." For the prophet of today was before called the Seer. [10] And Saul said to his boy, "Your word is good. Come and let's go." And they went to the city where the man of the Gods was.

[11] They were going up on the ascent of the city, and they found girls going out to draw water. And they said to them, "Is there in this the Seer?" [12] And they answered them and said, "There is. Behold, before you. Hurry now, for today he came to the city, for he will sacrifice today for the people at the high place. [13] As you come in the city, thus you will find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat until he comes, for he shall bless the sacrifice.

1 קִישׁ (qiysh) "Kish" - found also in 1 Samuel 9:3; 10:11, 21; 14:51; 2 Samuel 21:14; 1 Chronicles 8:30, 33; 9:36, 39; 12:1; 23:21-22; 24:29; 26:28; 2 Chronicles 29:12; Esther 2:5.

2 אַבִּיָּאל ('aviy'el) "Abiel" (God is my father) – found also in 1 Samuel 14:51; 1 Chronicles 11:32.

3 זֶרֶר (tseror) "Zeror" - only here as a name. Used elsewhere for a "small stone" (2 Samuel 17:13 BDB "pebble") or "kernel" (NAS Amos 9:9).

4 בְּכוֹרַת (bekhorat) "Bechorath" - only here

5 אֶפְיָח ('aphiyach) "Aphiah" - only here

6 בֶּן־אִישׁ יְמִינִי (ben-'iysh yeminyiy) "son of a Jaminite man" = son of a Benjaminite. See also 1 Samuel 9:4; 2 Samuel 20:1; Esther 2:5.

7 שָׁאֻל (sh'aul) "Saul"; LXX Σαουλ (Saoul) – see footnote for Genesis 36:37.

8 שְׁלִישָׁה (sh'lishâh) "Shalisha" - only here. There is also "Baal Shalisha" in 2 Kings 4:42.

9 שְׁעָלִים (sha'alim) "Shaalim" - only here.

Afterwards, those invited will eat. So now, go up, for him, even today,¹⁰ you shall find him.”

[14] And they went up the city.¹¹ They were coming in the midst of the city and behold, Samuel was going out to meet them to go up to the high place. [15] And Yehvah had revealed in Samuel's ear one day before the coming of Saul, saying, [16] “At this time tomorrow I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him for a ruler over my people, Israel. And he shall save my people from the hand of Philistines. For I have seen my people, for their outcry has come to me.” [17] And Samuel saw Saul, and Yehvah answered him, “Behold, the man that I mentioned to you. This one will rule over my people.”

[18] And Saul drew near Samuel in the midst of the gate and said, “Please tell me, where is this Seer's house?” [19] And Samuel answered Saul and said, “I am the Seer. Go up before me to the high place, and you will eat¹² with me today. And I will send you away in the morning, and all that is in your heart I will declare to you. [20] And for the female donkeys lost to you today, three days ago, so do not set your heart to them, for they were found. And to whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not to you and to all your father's house?”

[21] And Saul answered and said, “Am I not a Benjamite from the smallest tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribes of Benjamin? So, why do you speak to me as this word?” [22] And Samuel took Saul and his boy and brought them in a room and gave to them a place at the head of those invited. And there were about thirty men. [23] And Samuel said to the cook, “Give the portion that I gave to you that I said to you, 'Put it with you.'”

[24] So, the cook took the leg and its upper part and set before Saul. And he said, “Here is what was left. Set before you and eat, for to this appointed time it was kept for you, saying, I invited the people.” And Saul ate with Samuel on that day. [25] And they came down from the high place of the city,¹³ and he spoke with Saul on the roof.

[26] And they rose early. And it was, as the dawn was coming up, so Samuel called to Saul on the roof,¹⁴ saying, “Arise, and let me send you away.” And Saul arose, and the two of them, he and Samuel, went out to the outside. [27] And they went down by the edge of the city, and Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the boy to pass on before us.” And he passed on. “And you, stand at the day,¹⁵ and I will cause you to hear the word of Gods.”

10[1] And Samuel took the flask of the oil and poured upon his head and kissed him and said, “Is it not because Yehvah has anointed you over his

10 כִּי־אֵתוֹ כְּהַיּוֹם (kiy-'oto khhayyom) “for him, even today”; “for at this time” YLT; “for about this time” NKJV; “at once” NAS – more literally, “for him, at today”

11 No “to” i.e. just “the city”, no “to the city” - this wording goes along with verse 11, “the ascent of the city,” the ascent being considered part of the city.

12 אֲכַלְתֶּם ('akhaltem) “you will eat” - plural “you,” thus the boy with Saul is included in this.

13 מִהַבְּמָה הָעִיר (mēhabbâmâh hâ'iyir) “from the high place of the city” - most translations have “to the city” or “into the city,” but there is no “to” or “into.”

14 Kethib הַגָּג (haggâg) “the roof”; qere הַגָּגָה (haggâgâh) “to the roof”

15 כַּיּוֹם (kayyom) “at the day”; YLT “at this time”; NKJV “here awhile” - evidently a figure of speech, this could be “at,” “as,” “like,” “according to,” etc. “the day.”

inheritance for a ruler? [2] In your going from me today, so you will find two men by the grave of Rachel in the border of Benjamin in Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'We found the donkeys that you went to seek. And behold, your father has left the matters of the donkeys and is anxious for you,¹⁶ saying, "What shall I do for my son?"'"

[3] "And you will pass on from there and onward and go unto the terebinth tree of Tabor. And three men going up to the Gods, House of God, will find you there, one carrying three kids, and one carrying three loaves of bread, and one carrying a skin of wine. [4] And they will ask you how you are doing¹⁷ and will give you two bread, and you shall take from their hand. [5] Afterwards, you shall go to the hill of the Gods where there are Philistine garrisons. And it shall be, as your coming in there of the city, so you shall meet a group of prophets going down from the high place, and before them a harp,¹⁸ and tambourine, and flute, and lyre.¹⁹ And they shall be prophesying. [6] And Yehvah's spirit will rush²⁰ upon you, and you shall prophesy with them. And you will be turned into another man. [7] And it shall be, when these signs come to you, do for yourself what you find in your hand, for the Gods are with you."²¹

[8] "And you shall go down before me to the Gilgal, and behold, I will come down to you to offer up a burnt offering to sacrifice sacrifices of peace. Seven days you shall wait for my coming to you. And I will make known to you what you shall do." [9] And it was, as he turned his shoulder to go from with Samuel, so Gods, he turned over to him another heart. And all these signs came on that day. [10] And they came there to the Hill, and behold, a group of prophets to meet him. And Gods' spirit rushed upon him, and he prophesied in their midst.

[11] And it was, everyone who knew him from time past²² and saw, and behold, prophesying with prophets, so the people said each to his neighbor, "What is this that has happened to Kish's son? Is Saul also among the prophets?"²³ [12] And a man from there answered and said, "And who is their father?" Therefore, it was for a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" [13] And he finished from prophesying, and went to the high place.

[14] And Saul's uncle said to him and to his boy, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the female donkeys, and we saw that they were not. And we went to Samuel." [15] And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, please, what did Samuel say to you?"

16 לָכֶם (lākhem) "for you" - plural "you"

17 לְשָׁלוֹם (leshâlom) "how you are doing" - more literally, "to peace" - see footnote for Genesis 43:27.

18 נֶבֶל (nêvel) "harp" NAS; "psaltery" KJV, YLT ("psaltery" is from LXX ψαλτήριον [psaltêrion, not found in this passage, but used for נֶבֶל (nêvel) in e.g. Psalm 56:8(H9, LXX9), etc.]); "stringed instrument" NKJV – נֶבֶל (nêvel) used for a ten stringed instrument in Psalm 33:2; 144:9. This same exact word is also used for a "skin" of wine (e.g. 1 Samuel 1:24; 10:3; etc.).

19 כִּנּוֹר (khinnor) "lyre" - "a stringed instrument like a small U-shaped harp with strings fixed to a crossbar" (Oxford)

20 צָלַחַהּ (tsālchâh) "rush" - see Judges 14:6 and footnote.

21 הָאֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ (hâ'elohiym `immâkh) "the Gods are with you" - the copula "are" is understood/implicit, thus it could also be translated "is."

22 מֵאִתְּמוֹל שִׁלְשׁוֹם (mê'ittemdol shilshom) "before" - see Genesis 31:2 footnote.

23 Same question in 1 Samuel 19:24 (19:9-24).

[16] And Saul said to his uncle, “Declaring, he declared to us that the female donkeys were found.” And the matter of the kingship²⁴ he did not declare to him what Samuel said.

[17] And Samuel called the people together to Yehvah to the Lookout. [18] And he said to sons of Israel, “Thus said Yehvah, Gods of Israel, 'I brought Israel up from Egypt and delivered you from the hand of Egypt and from the hand of all the kingdoms who oppressed you. [19] And you today have rejected your Gods, he who saved you from all your bad things and your distresses. And you have said to him that, “You should set over us a king.” And now, stand before Yehvah by your tribes and by your thousands.”

[20] And Samuel brought near all tribes of Israel, and tribe of Benjamin was caught.²⁵ [21] And he brought near tribe of Benjamin according to his family,²⁶ and the Matri²⁷ family was caught. And Saul, son of Kish, was caught. And they sought him, and he was not found. [22] And they asked further in Yehvah, “Has the man come here yet?” And Yehvah said, “Behold, he is hiding by the vessels.”²⁸ [23] And they ran and took him from there. And he stood in the midst of the people, and he was taller than all the people from his shoulder and upwards. [24] And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom Yehvah has chosen? For there is none like him in all the people.” And all the people shouted and said, “May the king live!”

[25] And Samuel spoke to the people the judgment of the kingship and wrote in the book and set it before Yehvah. And Samuel sent all the people each to his house. [26] And Saul also went to his house at Hill, and the valiant, whom Gods, he touched in their heart, went with him. [27] And sons of Belial said, “What, this one will save us?” And they despised him and did not bring to him a gift. And he was as one deaf.²⁹

24 מְלֹכָה (melukhâh) “kingship” CSB, etc.; “kingdom” YLT, NKJV, KJV, NAS - “kingdom” is מַמְלָכָה (mamlâkhâh) e.g. 1 Samuel 10:18; 13:13-14; 28:17.

25 לָקַד (yillâkhêd) “caught” - see Joshua 7:14 and footnote.

26 Kethib מִשְׁפַּחְתּוֹ (mishpachtâv) “his family”; qere מִשְׁפֹּחְתָיו (mishpechotâyv)

27 מַטְרִי (matri) “Matri” - only here.

28 כְּלִים (kêliym) “vessels” YLT; “equipment” NKJV; “baggage” NAS; “stuff” KJV – plural form, not a specific term.

29 כְּמַחְרִישׁ (kemachariysh) “as one deaf” YLT, DARBY; “he kept silent” NAS; “he held his peace” NKJV, KJV – here is the verb form. The related adjective form for “deaf” is חֵרֵשׁ (chêrêsh) e.g. Exodus 4:11; Leviticus 19:14.