

# WOC INTERNATIONAL

## A Sad Saga of Wasted Potential - Oct 29, 2021

### We know Saul was the son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin

#### What do we know about Kish? - He was a brave, athletic, and wealthy Benjamite

1 Sam 9:1 "There was a man from Binyamin named Kish the son of Avi'el, the son of Tz'ror, the son of B'khorat, the son of Afiach, the son of a man from Binyamin. He was a man of substance and brave as well." CJB

#### What about Saul? - He was tall, handsome, & athletic like Kish his father & Jonathan his son

1 Sam 9:2 "He had a son named Sha'ul who was young and good-looking; among the people of Isra'el there was no one better-looking than he; he stood head and shoulders taller than anyone else in Isra'el." CJB

2 Sam 1:23 "Sha'ul and Y'honatan, loved and gracious while alive, were not separated even in death; they were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions." CJB

#### While we don't know how old Saul was when he anointed; we do know he was young

#### David was unborn when Saul began to reign and became Judah's king at his death at 30

2 Sam 5:3-4 "So all the leaders of Isra'el came to the king in Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them in Hebron in the presence of Adonai. Then they anointed David king over Isra'el. 4 David was thirty years old when he began his rule, and he ruled forty years." CJB

#### Ish-Bosheth (Saul's son) was 40 years old when he became Israel's king at Saul's death

#### We know Jonathan was older than him and at least \_\_\_\_\_ years older than David

2 Sam 2:8-11 "Avner the son of Ner, commander of Sha'ul's army, had taken Ish-Boshet the son of Sha'ul, brought him over to Machanayim, 9 and made him king over Gil'ad, the Ashuri, Yizre'el, Efrayim, Binyamin and all Isra'el. 10 Ish-Boshet the son of Sha'ul was forty years old when he began to rule over Isra'el, and he ruled for two years. But the house of Y'hudah followed David." CJB

### We know becoming the first king of Israel was not something on Saul's agenda

#### But Yahweh selected him because of listening ability, potential and \_\_\_\_\_

#### Note his obedience to his father's command to search for his father's lost donkeys

1 Samuel 9:3 "Once the donkeys belonging to Kish Sha'ul's father got lost. Kish said to his son Sha'ul, "Please take one of the servants with you, go out, and look for the donkeys." CJB

#### Saul listened to the servant to \_\_\_\_\_ & not return home after looking for 3 days

1 Sam 9:6 "His servant replied, "Here now, there's a man of God in this city, a man who is highly respected, and everything he says proves true. Let's go to him; maybe he can tell us something about where we should go." CJB

#### Saul obeyed the custom of not appearing before Yahweh or his servants empty handed

1 Sam 9:7-8 "But look," Sha'ul said to his servant, "if we go to the man, what can we bring him? We've used up all the bread in our packs, and there's nothing for us to give the man of God - what do we have left?" 8 The servant replied again to Sha'ul: "See, I have here in my hand a silver quarter-shekel [one-tenth of an ounce]. I will give it to the man of God to tell us which way to go." CJB

### **Saul listened to the young ladies' instructions regarding meeting Samuel**

1 Sam 9:12-13 "The girls answered them, "He's here, he's right ahead of you. Hurry now, he just came into the city today, because the people are sacrificing today at the high place. 13 Find him as soon as you enter the city, before he goes up to the high place to eat; because the people won't eat until he comes and blesses the sacrifice. Afterwards, the ones invited will eat. So go on up, because this is when you will find him." CJB

### **Saul obeyed Samuel's command to go on ahead of him and stay at his house one night**

1 Sam 9:19 "Sh'mu'el answered Sha'ul, "I'm the seer. Go up ahead of me to the high place, because you are going to dine with me today. In the morning, I will let you leave; and I will tell you everything that is on your heart." CJB

### **He \_\_\_\_\_ Yahweh his most pressing concern (his father's donkeys) were safe**

1 Sam 9:14 "As for your donkeys that got lost three days ago, don't worry about them; they've been found. Now, who is it that all Isra'el wants? Isn't it you, and all your father's household?" CJB

### **Saul obeyed Samuel's command that he and his servant sit in the seats of honor**

1 Sam 9:16 "Sh'mu'el took Sha'ul and his servant, brought them into the room and had them sit in the place reserved for the most important of the invited guests, who numbered about thirty persons" CJB

### **He listened to Samuel on how to eat the food set before him as an honored \_\_\_\_\_**

1 Sam 9:24 "The cook took the thigh and the adjoining meat and served it to Sha'ul. Sh'mu'el said, "Here, this is what remains! Put it in front of you and eat – it was kept especially for you until the right time; because I said, 'I have invited the people.'" So Sha'ul dined with Sh'mu'el that day." CJB

### **Saul obeyed Samuel's command to send the servant home so he could hear from Yahweh**

1 Sam 9:27 "As they were going down, at the edge of the city, Sh'mu'el said to Sha'ul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead"; so the servant went on. "But you, stand still now, because I want you to hear what God has said." CJB

### **Saul submitted to Samuel anointing him \_\_\_\_\_ to become king**

1 Sam 10:1 "Then Sh'mu'el took a flask of oil he had prepared and poured it on Sha'ul's head. He kissed him and said, "Adonai has anointed you to be prince over his inheritance" CJB

### **Saul obeyed the 3 instructions Samuel gave him to glorify him in Israel's sight as king**

1 Sam 10:5-6 "After that, you will come to Giv'ah of God, where the P'lishtim are garrisoned. On arrival at the city there, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place, preceded by lutes, tambourines, flutes and lyres; and they will be prophesying. 6 Then the Spirit of Adonai will fall on you; you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man! CJB

### **But Saul was given one essential command that absolutely had to obey**

#### **Wait in Gilgal 7 days to receive further instruction, after Samuel made the offerings**

1 Sam 10:8 "Then you are to go down ahead of me to Gilgal, and there I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and present sacrifices as peace offerings. Wait there seven days, until I come to you and tell you what to do." CJB

## In light of all this obedience, where did Saul go wrong?

### **Saul \_\_\_\_\_ who he was in Yahweh's sight and the honor of the position given to him**

1 Sam 9:21 "Sha'ul replied, "I'm only a man from Binyamin, the smallest tribe in Isra'el; and my family is the least important of all the families in the tribe of Binyamin! Why are you saying such a thing to me?" CJB

### **Saul \_\_\_\_\_ false witness to his uncle about the extent of his conversation with Samuel**

1 Sam 10:14-16 "Sha'ul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" He answered, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they hadn't been found, we went to Sh'mu'el." 15 "Tell me, please," said Sha'ul's uncle, "what Sh'mu'el said to you." 16 Sha'ul answered his uncle, "He told us that the donkeys had been found," but said nothing to him about the matter of his being made king." CJB

### **Saul \_\_\_\_\_ at the time of the public announcement of his kingship instead of being up front**

1 Sam 10:21-22 "He had the tribe of Binyamin come forward by families, and the family of the Matri was chosen, and Sha'ul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he couldn't be found. 22 They asked Adonai, "Has the man come here?" Adonai answered, "There he is, hiding, in among the equipment." CJB

### **Saul offered a \_\_\_\_\_ only priests/prophets could present, instead of waiting**

1 Sam 13:8-9 "He waited seven days, as Sh'mu'el had instructed; but Sh'mu'el didn't come to Gilgal; so the army began to drift away from him. 9 Sha'ul said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings," and he offered the burnt offering." CJB

### **Saul \_\_\_\_\_ Yahweh's command to utterly destroy the Amalekites**

1 Sam 15:3 "Now go and attack 'Amalek, and completely destroy everything they have. Don't spare them, but kill men and women, children and babies, cows and sheep, camels and donkeys." CJB

### **Instead of taking responsibility, he chose the coward's way out and blamed the people**

1 Sam 15:13-14 "Sh'mu'el went to Sha'ul; Sha'ul said to him, "May Adonai bless you! I have done what Adonai ordered." 14 But Sh'mu'el answered, "If so, why do I hear sheep bleating and cows mooing?" Sha'ul said, "They brought them from the 'Amaleki, because the people spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to Adonai your God. But we completely destroyed the rest." CJB

### **Saul \_\_\_\_\_ innocent priests at Nob for siding with David**

1 Sam 22:17-18 "Then the king told the guards standing around him, "Go around, and kill the cohanim of Adonai, because they are siding with David, and because they knew he was escaping, yet they didn't tell me." But the king's servants refused to lift their hands against the cohanim of Adonai. 18 So the king said to Do'eg, "You go around and kill the cohanim!" Do'eg the Edomi went around and fell on the cohanim; that day he killed eighty-five persons wearing linen ritual vests" CJB

### **Saul disrespectfully \_\_\_\_\_ a witch in disguise in an attempt to circumvent Yahweh**

1 Sam 28:8 "So Sha'ul disguised himself by wearing different clothing, went with two men, came to the woman by night and said, "Tell me the future, please. Bring up from the dead the person I name to you." CJB

## What led to Saul wasting his potential?

**Like Samson, he let unbridled desire keep him from fulfilling his destiny as king and deliverer**

**Self-will led the adult Saul to be obedient, but only when it suited his purposes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **unbelief led Saul to violate Yahweh's statutes and forfeit the kingdom**

**Had Saul waited just a little longer for Samuel, he would have saved his kingdom**

*1 Sam 13:10 "As soon as he had finished sacrificing the burnt offering, there was Sh'mu'el – he had come, and Sha'ul went out to meet and greet him." CJB*

\_\_\_\_\_ **led Saul to regard man's favor more than Yahweh's displeasure**

*1 Sam 15:24 "Sha'ul said to Sh'mu'el, "I have sinned. I violated the order of Adonai and your words too, because I was afraid of the people and listened to what they said." CJB*

\_\_\_\_\_ **led Saul to murder Yahweh's priests and reject His words, which led to**

**Yahweh openly rejecting him as king and blocking him from receiving any insight**

*1 Sam 28:18-19 "Because you didn't obey what Adonai said and execute his furious anger toward 'Amalek. That's why Adonai is doing this to you today. 19 Adonai is giving Isra'el as well as yourself over into the power of the P'lishtim, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Adonai will hand over Isra'el's army to the power of the P'lishtim." CJB*

\_\_\_\_\_ **zeal by his people towards the Gibeonites brought a curse on the nation**

*2 Sam 21:1 "In David's time there was a famine that lasted three years, and David consulted Adonai. Adonai said, "It is because of Sha'ul and his bloodstained house, because he put to death the people of Giv'on." CJB*

## What should I do today if any of the 5 preceding things apply to me?

\_\_\_\_\_ **making hasty decisions that lead to circular and unending (i.e. infinite) lifelines**

*Isa 28:16 "therefore here is what Adonai Elohim says: "Look, I am laying in Tziyon a tested stone, a costly cornerstone, a firm foundation-stone; he who trusts will not rush here and there." CJB*

\_\_\_\_\_ **courageous like David and take accountability for my sin, not be a coward like Saul**

**Repent, turn from my wicked ways, seek my Father's mercy, & let him take away my sin**

*2 Sam 12:13 "David said to Natan, "I have sinned against Adonai." Natan said to David, "Adonai also has taken away your sin. You will not die." CJB*

\_\_\_\_\_ **a trusting life with gusto knowing it's not how I start, but how I finish!**

## Notes