

The literary structure of 1 Samuel 9:1-10:16

Saul is anointed

A. Saul, his family, the search for donkeys:

Saul's father/ About Saul: 9:1 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. 2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

The search for donkeys: 3 Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." 4 And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them.

B. Donkeys/anxiety, bread, prophets – he can tell us our way

a) Let us go/man of God/city: 5 When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us." 6 But he said to him, "Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go."

b) Gift: 7 Then Saul said to his servant, "But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?"

b1) Gift: 8 The servant answered Saul again, "Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way." 9 (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer.)

a1) Let us go/man of God/city: 10 And Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was.

C. Going up to the city/ God's word to Samuel, anointing

a) Went up to the city: 11 As they went up the hill to the city, they met young women coming out to draw water and said to them, "Is the seer here?"

b) Hurry: 12 They answered, "He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry."

c) Sacrifice, eat: He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place. 13

d) You will find him: As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat.

c1) Eat, sacrifice: For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat.

b1) Hurry: Now go up, for you will meet him immediately."

a1) Went up to the city: 14 So they went up to the city. As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

God's word to Samuel/ Anointing: 15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: 16 "Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me." 17 When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He is who shall restrain my people."

D. The meal at the high place

a) Go up to high place/eat today/morning: 18 Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, "Tell me where is the house of the seer?" 19 Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. 20 As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found."

b) Honoring Saul: And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father's house?"

c) Saul's questioning: 21 Saul answered, "Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?"

b1) Honoring Saul: 22 Then Samuel took Saul and his young man and brought them into the hall and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, who were about thirty persons. 23 And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, 'Put it aside.'" 24 So the cook took up the leg and what was on it and set them

before Saul. And Samuel said, "See, what was kept is set before you. Eat, because it was kept for you until the hour appointed, that you might eat with the guests."

a1) Eat that day/came down from high place/morning: So Saul ate with Samuel that day. 25 And when they came down from the high place into the city, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep. 26 Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Up, that I may send you on your way." So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street.

C1. Leaving the city/ Anointing, God's word to Saul

Leaving the city: 27 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God."

Anointing/ God's word to Saul: 10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Has not the Lord anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies.

B1. Donkeys/anxiety, bread, prophets – Samuel tells them their way

Sign: And this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.

Sign #1: 2 When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, "The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now **your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"**"

Sign #2: 3 Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying **three loaves of bread**, and another carrying a skin of wine. 4 And they will greet you and **give you two loaves of bread**, which you shall accept from their hand.

Sign #3: 5 After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, **you will meet a group of prophets** coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. 6 Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

Signs: 7 Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. 8 Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."

A1. Saul, his family, the search for donkeys:

About Saul/ Saul's father: 9 When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. 10 When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. 11 And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" 12 And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" 13 When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

Search for donkeys: 14 Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." 15 And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." 16 And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.