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The Anointing of King Sha’ul
First Samuel 9:1 to 10:27



The focus now shifts from **Samuel** to **Sha’ul**; **God’s** choice for **Isra’el’s king**. He was from **the tribe of Benjamin**, which had almost been exterminated because of **their** rebellion against **the Torah** (see the commentary on **Judges, to see link click Cd – War Against the Tribe of Benjamin**). **Jacob** compared **Benjamin** to **a ravening wolf** (see **Genesis Lo – Benjamin is a Ravenous Wolf, He Devours the Prey and Divides the Plunder**), who didn’t think twice about killing others (see **Genesis Ie – The Slaughter at Shechem by Simeon and Levi**). **Benjamin’s** territory lay between **Ephraim** to the north and **Judah** to the south; so, **Sha’ul’s tribe** was next to the royal **tribe of Judah**. Even though **Sha’ul** described **himself as belonging** to **the smallest tribe of Isra’el,** and **his clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin (9:21), he** belonged to a powerful and wealthy family that owned much land, animals, and servants.

Physically, **Sha’ul** was tall, good-looking, and strong, the kind of king the people would admire. Even **Samuel**, with all **his** spiritual discernment, got carried away when **he** saw **him**. **The people ran and brought Sha’ul from Mitzpah, and when he stood among them he was head and shoulders taller than anyone around. Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man ADONAI has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?” Then all the**

people shouted, “Long live the king” (10:23-25)! Samuel’s weakness for admiring physical qualities even showed up when **he** went to anoint **David (16:1-7)**. **Sha’ul** was obedient to **his father** and concerned about **his father’s** feelings, and **he** was tireless in wanting to obey **his father’s** will. To invest all the time and energy looking for **the lost donkeys** suggests that **he** wasn’t a quitter **(9:1-14)**. In addition, there was a certain amount of modesty in **him (9:21** and **10:14-16)**, **but there was no indication of spiritual life.**[205]