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Behold, Your King First Samuel 9:15 to 10:16

Isra'el's elders had asked for a worldly **king**, and **ADONAI** sent **Sha'ul** as **His** literal answer. **Sha'ul** was the messiah (anointed one) and **king** for unbelieving **Isra'el**. But through the bitter experiences that would follow, many among **God's** people would cry for a true King who does God's will and not the will of the world. In time, **the LORD** would provide for them **a King** and **Messiah**, and **His** coming would be in stark contrast to the coming of **Sha'ul**.



As Richard Phillips relates in his commentary on **1 Samuel**, the day **Ha'Shem** provided **His** true **King** to **Isra'el** is remembered as Palm Sunday, when **Messiah** rode into **Jerusalem** amid cries of "Hosanna" (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ, to see link click It - Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem as the Passover Lamb**). It is striking that while **Sha'ul** came to **Ramah**, **Isra'el's** chief worship center at that time, **he** came exactly opposite to **Yeshua's** coming to **Jerusalem**. **Messiah** came riding on **a donkey**, **Isra'el's** royal symbol of one who brings **peace**. **Sha'ul**, however, arrived as one who couldn't find **his donkeys!** For all **his** impressive qualifications, **Sha'ul** simply was not able to be **a true king** for **God's people**. While **Sha'ul** came to **Isra'el** with an impressive outward appearance that masked **his** incompetence, **Yeshua** appeared in a humility that veiled **His** divine majesty and power.

The more fundamental difference between **Sha'ul** and **Yeshua** was **Sha'ul's** indifference toward **righteousness** before **YHVH**. This is the distinguishing feature of worldly **kings** and empires: a concern only for the pragmatic means of earthly success, with little or no thought of what **ADONAI** desires or thinks. All through the reign of **Sha'ul**, **he** will stumble over **God's** commands, finding **his** own will more suitable. In the greatest contrast, **Messiah** is the **King** who perfectly obeys **God's Word** and is filled with a passion for **His righteousness**. **Yeshua** would say: **My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work (John 4:34)**. **Sha'ul** had a fleeting empowerment of **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh**. But **Messiah**, as **ADONAI's** true **Son**, was fully and constantly filled by **the Spirit of God**. **He who sent Me is with Me, Yeshua declared, He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him (John 8:29)**. **The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Messiah preached, because He has anointed Me to proclaim the Good News to the poor (Luke 4:18, quoting Isaiah 61:1)**.

His perfect, personal **righteousness** qualified **Yeshua** to ride **the** royal **donkey** of **peace** into **Jerusalem**. **Zechariah** prophesied: **Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9)**. **Hebrews 1:8b-9** says: **The righteous scepter is the scepter of His Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore ADONAI, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above your companions. Yeshua is the true King sent by YHVH to establish righteousness on earth, and in that righteousness to give eternal peace to all those who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior.**

The Israelites had no choice but to accept **Sha'ul** as **king**. **Their elders** had rebelled against **ADONAI** by demanding **a worldly king . . .** and **Ha'Shem** gave them **Sha'ul**. But we have a choice. Everything that **Sha'ul** represented is still alive today, enthroned in the worldly seats of power and calling us to submit and worship it. We have a choice between **Sha'ul**, whose name identifies **him** as **the king** that the unbelieving world asked for, and **Yeshua**, whose name identified **Him** as **the Savior** sent by **the LORD** to deliver **His people** from the penalty and power of **their sins (Matthew 1:21)**. Our choice – to embrace the world or trust in **Messiah** – will determine our kingdom: either an earthly reign of unrighteousness and fleshly power, or a heavenly Kingdom of **righteousness** and **peace**.²¹⁶