

引言 INTRODUCTION

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “king?” Kings have a very different life compared to ordinary people. They live in a palace. They have many officials to serve them. They also have power to rule over their country. We used to have a king in our city too. He is Elvis Presley, the king of rock and roll. People debate about whether or not he was a true believer because there are conflicting evidence. At one time, Elvis invited a pastor to meet with him behind the stage before a concert. He kneeled and recommitted his life to Jesus. On another occasion, some fans raised a huge banner with wordings “Elvis is King.” He stopped in the middle of a song and told the audience: “There’s only one King, and He is Jesus Christ.” Elvis seemed to have a good knowledge about Jesus. However, he also had a keen interest in other religions. Moreover, he had a broken marriage, led a promiscuous lifestyle and abused prescription drugs. Ultimately, only Elvis himself and the Lord know if they truly have an eternal relationship. Someone said it wisely: “being famous is the worst thing that can ever happen to someone.” That comment is valid to the life of Saul too. God called Saul to be a king. He had a good start. Saul could be a good leader if he continued to rely on God.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 預告君王 Previewed the King

The Israelites asked Samuel for a king like other nations had. Despite their rebellion, God picked a king for them. Chapter 9 gives us a preview of the king. Saul was his name. He belonged to the tribe of Benjamin. His father Kish was a wealthy man. Verse 2 gives us further information: **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.** Saul was a good-looking and tall young man. One day, a few of Kish’s donkeys ran away. Therefore, Kish asked Saul to go with a servant to look for them. They traveled afar but still could not find the animals. Saul suggested that they should return home, lest his dad might worry about them. But the servant had a second opinion in verse 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.”** The man was none other but Samuel. Verse 9 says in those day there was a saying that people could go to a man of God when they needed any divine guidance. Samuel might help locate the lost donkeys. Today, every believer can pray directly to God because Jesus had paved the way for us to the Father. Whether lost donkeys or lost keys, nothing is too trivial for God. Prayer is more than asking for what we need. It is an interaction with God. It reflects a close relationship and trust. When Saul and the servant arrived at the city gate, they met a few ladies coming out to draw water. They asked the women where they could find Samuel. They gave the men directions in verse 12: **They answered, “He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place.”** Samuel toured around Israel and gave people spiritual advice. But on that day, Samuel was in town to present a peace offering. It is an expression of thanksgiving in which part of the meat would be shared among the

participants. Meanwhile, God had told Samuel the day before that Saul would come. God gave Samuel instructions in verse 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.”** God labeled the future king as a prince, meaning a ruler. He would lead his people to overcome the Philistines. God showed compassion to His people despite their wrong motive in asking for a king. God loves us even when we disobey Him. However, we will suffer the consequence of our sins. Many Christians date and marry non-believers even though it is against God’s will to do so. Two persons with contrasting worldviews will easily lead to conflicts. At the end, the believing partner may even depart from the faith. In other cases, some Christians intentionally commit grave sins. The pleasure of sins will soon turn into sorrow and even bondage. God is always the Lord of second chances. He is the Heavenly Father of prodigal children who waits for us to return home. God knows that rebellion is part of our sinful human nature. All along, God understood that Adam and Eve would disobey Him. Salvation through Jesus Christ is not a backup plan. Right after Adam and Eve sinned, God previewed the coming Savior. God covered the couple with animal skin. That implied animals must be slaughtered. The picture previewed that Jesus was the sacrificial Lamb of God who covered our sins. Besides, God told Satan that an offspring from the woman would crush his head. Jesus defeated the power of Satan on the cross. Jesus was the true King God had chosen to rescue us from sin. Those who receive Jesus by faith will have an eternal relationship with God.

2. 預備君王 Prepared the King

God previewed the king to Samuel. Next, God prepared Saul to be a king. Even before Saul mentioned the donkeys, Samuel spoke in verse 20: **“As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father’s house?”** Samuel proved himself to be a prophet, because he knew what was in Saul’s heart. But the more important message was that God had prepared Saul to be the next leader. He was the type of king people looked for. Saul was surprised by what he heard. He humbly replied that his family was nobody, and it belonged to the smallest tribe of Israel. Samuel did not elaborate the meaning behind his compliment. Instead, he asked Saul and his servant to join a feast with thirty other invited guests. Samuel put the two men in the most honorable seats. Then he asked the cook to serve Saul a good portion of meat reserved for him. Afterward, the two guests spent the night at Samuel’s home. In the next morning, Samuel asked Saul to tell the servant to go on ahead of them, while the prophet performed a private ceremony on Saul. Look at 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 heritage... ?”** In the Old Testament, a special perfume oil was poured on the head when a person was chosen as a priest or a king. It symbolizes that the person is set aside for God’s purpose. Kings in Israel were appointed by God to represent Him, and not elected by people to represent them. God’s calling on Saul would be confirmed by three signs. First, Saul would meet two men who informed him that the lost donkeys had been found. Second, he would run into three men on their way to worship God. They would share some bread with Saul. Third, Saul would encounter a procession of prophets. Then something unusual would happen to him. Read at 10:10-11 – **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?” God changed Saul into a different person when His Spirit came upon him. He would prophesy like the band of prophets did. They might not be predicting about future events. It means that they conveyed messages under the influence of God’s spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament times was rare. In Exodus 31, God filled Bezalel with His Spirit so that he could make various accessories in the tabernacle. God’s Spirit also descended on Samson and gave him great strength to tear a lion apart with bare hands. All that indwelling of God’s Spirit was only temporary. God gave Saul His Spirit to prepare him to be a future king. Unfortunately, Saul later became a self-centered, arrogant and jealous man. He misused the privilege and power given by God. Eventually, the Spirit left Saul. He was possessed by an evil spirit instead. Today, the Holy Spirit lives in us permanently the moment when we receive Jesus. We are a new person in Jesus. We will not have supernatural power. The Holy Spirit prepares us to live an obedient life to God. He reminds us of God’s Word. He also helps us overcome temptations and our sinful desires. Brothers and sisters: is the Holy Spirit active in your life? Can you see any change in your life before and after you become a Christian? Are you living for yourself or living for God? Do you draw people’s attention to you, or do you reflect God’s glory through what you do? The Holy Spirit also gives us various gifts to serve God in the church. Do you know what your gifts are? Are you using those gifts in ministries? We must live by the Holy Spirit in our daily life and our church life.

3. 介紹君王 Presented the King

God previewed His chosen king to Samuel. Subsequently, God prepared Saul to serve as a king. Now the time came for Samuel to present the king to his people. He called a townhall meeting. Look at verse 17-19: **17 Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah. 18 And he said to the people of Israel, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’ 19 But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands.”** Last time people gathered at Mizpah and confessed their sin of idolatry. Then they rededicated themselves to God. Now they sinned against God by asking for a man to be their leader. But God granted their wish anyway. Instead of calling Saul to stand out, Samuel presented their king by drawing lots. Of the twelve tribes of Israel, Benjamin was picked. Then from one tribe, it was narrowed down to a clan, then Kish’s family and finally Saul was selected. In the Bible times, people discerned God’s will by casting lots. That was how the Israelites determined that it was Achan who violated God’s command and took some plunders at the battle of Jericho. Jesus’ disciples used the same process to choose between Justus and Matthias to replace Judas. A pastor told me his church picked a deacon in the same way. Two candidates were both qualified to serve. After a lengthy discussion, they drew straw. Of course, you should not blindly roll a dice when deciding which house to buy or which job offer to take. You can consider drawing lots if you cannot make up your mind after you have prayed and have evaluated different options. Through the process, Samuel showed that Saul was the person God had in mind. Now the king was known. But he could not be found. Look at verse 22: **So they inquired again of the Lord, “Is there a man still to come?” and the Lord said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”** Saul could be shy, timid or humble. For whatever reason, he did not seem to be ready

for the role yet. When Moses was called by God, he was not confident to take the assignment. He asked God to find someone else. God proved that He would equip those people He called. Gifts, talents and opportunities are all from Him. Feeling incompetent or being overwhelmed by the task should cause us to rely on God even more. After all, God does not need us, but we need Him every moment. Finally, people found Saul. Continue to read verse 23-24: **23 Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. 24 And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"** The Israelites were excited to have their king. Notice that the author put the sole focus on Saul's height. Then Samuel asked people to "see" their king in the next verse. They were satisfied because Saul looked like a king other nations had. He was young, tall and handsome. They would know soon if Saul could act like a true leader. The world only looks at the surface. Advertisement is all about packaging. What qualities should we look for in spiritual leaders? In a friend or even a future spouse? You can only see people's external appearance from a distance. You get some general information like gender, ethnicity, approximate age, physical built, etc. You will get an idea of people's personalities when you talk to them. You can feel if they are warm or cold, courteous or rude and humble or proud. You never actual know a person until you spend time in a deeper conversation or when you work together. Also, outward appearance will eventually fade away. Only godly virtues like kindness, loyalty and grace will last. Those traits may not be something you are born with. You must spend time with God and allow Him to mature you to become more like Christ.

結論 CONCLUSION

Now the Israelites had a king they wanted. The king and his people would prosper if they relied on God. Subsequent history shows that no Israel king was perfect. God expected His people to turn to Him in their despair. He had a very different King in mind. It is His only Son Jesus Christ. He did not look like a king foreign nations had. Isaiah 53:2 describes: **For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.** Jesus did not have the look. He did not live in a palace. He taught a value system that was contrary to the world's. He encouraged people to deny themselves, sacrifice for others and humble before God. He told people that His Kingdom was not down here but up there in heaven. When Jesus was under trial, Pilate the governor said to the Jews: **"Behold your King!"** (John 19:14). But they denied their King and told Pilate to send Jesus to the cross. Never could anyone imagine that this rejected King died for our sins. Jesus is the true King we should look up to. We follow Him in this life, and one day we will behold His beauty in eternity.

引言 INTRODUCTION

當你聽到「王」這個字的時候，你會想到什麼？君王的生活與平民百姓截然不同。他們住在皇宮裡，他們有許多官員為他們服務，他們也有權統治他們的國家。曾經在我們的城市也有一位王。他就是搖滾音樂之王普理斯萊 (Elvis Presley)，他的別號是「貓王」。人們爭論他是否是一個真正的信徒，因為有相互矛盾的證據。有一次，普理斯萊邀請一位牧師在音樂會之前到舞台後面與他會面。他跪下，重新將自己的生命委身給耶穌。還有一次，一些歌迷舉起了巨大的標誌，上面寫著「貓王是王」。他在一首歌中間停了下來，告訴觀眾：「天下只有一位王，祂就是耶穌基督。」貓王似乎對耶穌有基本的認識。然而，他也對其他宗教產生了濃厚的興趣。此外，他的婚姻破裂、過著濫交的生活和濫用藥物。最終，只有他本人和主知道他們是否真的有永恆關係。有人說了一句有智慧的話：「成名是發生在一個人身上最糟糕的事情。」這句話對掃羅的生平也合用。神呼召掃羅為王。他有一個好的開始。如果掃羅繼續依靠神，他可以成為一個好的領袖。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 預告君王 Previewed the King

以色列人向撒母耳要求像其他國家一樣立王。雖然他們背逆神，神還是為他們揀選一位君王。第 9 章預告了這一位王。他的名字是掃羅。他屬於便雅憫支派。他的父親基士是一個富有的人。第 2 節給了我們進一步的資料：**他有一個兒子，名叫掃羅，又健壯、又俊美，在以色列人中沒有一個能比他的；身體比眾民高過一頭。**掃羅是個高大英俊的年輕人。有一天，基士的幾頭驢走失了。於是，他叫掃羅帶著一個僕人去找驢。他們走了很遠，但仍然找不到驢。掃羅建議回家，免得他父親擔心他們。但僕人在第 6 節有別的意見：**僕人說：「這城裏有一位神人，是眾人所尊重的，凡他所說的全都應驗。我們不如往他那裏去，或者他能將我們當走的路指示我們。」**他說的人就是撒母耳。第 9 節說，當時有一種說法，當人們需要尋求神的心意時，他們可以去找一位神人。撒母耳可能會幫助找到丟失的驢子。今天，每個信徒都可以直接向神禱告，因為耶穌為我們鋪了通往天父的道路。無論是迷失的驢子還是鑰匙，對於神來說，沒有什麼是微不足道的。禱告不只是向神要東西，也是與神的互動，反映密切的關係和信靠。掃羅和僕人到了城門口，遇見幾個出來打水的女士。他們問婦女

在哪裡可以找到撒母耳。她們在第 12 節給出指示：女子回答說：「在這裏，他在你們前面。快去吧！他今日正到城裏，因為今日百姓要在邱壇獻祭。」撒母耳周遊以色列，給人們屬靈的指示。但那天，撒母耳正好在那城裡獻平安祭。這是一種感謝神的表達，人們可以分享其中一部分的肉。其實神在前一天已經告訴撒母耳掃羅會來找他。神在第 16 節給撒母耳指示：「明日這時候，我必使一個人從便雅憫地到你這裏來，你要膏他作我民以色列的君。他必救我民脫離非利士人的手；因我民的哀聲上達於我，我就眷顧他們。」神將未來的王稱為君，意思是統治者。他會帶領人民戰勝非利士人。神憐憫祂的子民，儘管他們要求王的動機是錯誤的。縱使我們不順服神，神仍然愛我們。然而，我們將承擔我們犯罪的後果。許多基督徒與非信徒約會和結婚，雖然這樣做不是神的心意。兩個世界觀截然不同的人，很容易引起衝突。最終，信主的一方甚至可能離開信仰。在其他情況下，一些基督徒故意犯嚴重的罪。罪中之樂很快會變成愁苦，甚至是束縛。神一直都給人第二次機會。祂是等待我們回家浪子的父親。神知道叛逆是我們罪性的一部分。神老早就知道亞當和夏娃會違背祂的命令。耶穌基督的救贖並不是神的後備計劃。亞當和夏娃犯罪之後，神就預告了將要來的救主。神用動物的皮遮蓋亞當和夏娃。這意味著必須宰殺動物。那幅圖畫預告耶穌是神的代罪羔羊，祂遮蓋了我們的罪。此外，神告訴撒旦，女人的後裔會傷他的頭。耶穌在十字架上戰勝了撒旦的權勢。耶穌是神揀選拯救我們脫離罪的君王。那些憑信心接受耶穌的人將與神建立永恆的關係。

2. 預備君王 Prepared the King

神向撒母耳預告君王。另外，神也預備掃羅作王。在第 20 節，掃羅在提到驢之前，撒母耳先開口說：「至於你前三日所丟的那幾頭驢，你心裏不必掛念，已經找着了。以色列眾人所仰慕的是誰呢？不是仰慕你和你父的全家嗎？」這證明了撒母耳是一位先知，因為他知道掃羅關心的事情。但更重要的信息是神已經預備掃羅成為將來的領袖。他是人們渴望的那種王。掃羅驚訝撒母耳對他說的話。他謙卑地回答說，他的家不是什麼名門，而且屬於以色列最小的支派。撒母耳沒有詳細解釋他的讚賞背後的含義。接下來，他邀請掃羅和他的僕人與三十位客人一起吃飯。撒母耳把他們兩人安排在最尊貴的座位上，然後他請廚師把為掃羅準備的肉拿出來。晚餐之後，兩位客人在撒母耳家過夜。第二天早上，撒母耳請掃羅吩咐僕人走在他們前面，然後為掃羅舉行一個私人的儀式。請看 10:1—撒母耳拿瓶膏油倒在掃羅的頭上，與他親嘴，說：「這不是耶和華膏你作他產業的君嗎？」在舊約中，當一個人被揀選成為祭司或君王時，一種特別的膏油會倒在他們頭上，象徵神把那個人分別出來被祂使用。以色列的君王是神委派來代表祂的，不是人選出來代表人民的。神對掃羅的呼召會通過三件事情來印證。首先，掃羅會遇到兩個人，他們告訴他丟失的驢子已經找到

了。其次，他會碰到三個去敬拜神人，他們會給掃羅兩個餅。第三，掃羅會遇到一群先知，然後他會發生一些不尋常的事情。請讀 10:10-11 – 10 **掃羅到了那山，有一班先知遇見他，神的靈大大感動他，他就在先知中受感說話。11 素來認識掃羅的，看見他和先知一同受感說話，就彼此說：「基士的兒子遇見甚麼了？掃羅也列在先知中嗎？」**當神的靈臨到掃羅時，他被改變成為不一樣的人。他會像那些先知一樣說預言。他們不一定是講一些將來會發生的事情。總個來說，他們是被神的靈感動傳達信息。聖靈在舊約時代的工作並不常見。在出埃及記 31 章中，神的靈充滿比撒列，使他有靈感設計會幕的各樣器具。神的靈也降臨在參孫身上，給他驚人的力量，甚至可以徒手撕開一頭獅子。當時神的靈只是暫時住在人裡面。神把祂的靈賜給掃羅，預備他成為未來的君王。可惜掃羅後來成了一個自我中心、傲慢和嫉妒的人。他濫用神賦予的特權和能力。結果，神的靈離開掃羅，他反而被邪靈附身。今天，當我們接受耶穌的那一刻，聖靈就永遠住在我們裡面。我們在耶穌裡成為一個新人。我們不會有超自然的力量。聖靈預備我們過順服神的生活。聖靈提醒我們神的話語，祂還幫助我們勝過試探和犯罪的衝動。弟兄姐妹：聖靈在你的生命中活躍嗎？在你成為基督徒之前和之後，你能看到你的生活有什麼變化嗎？你是為自己而活還是為神而活？你是希望吸引別人的注意，還是藉著你的生活反映神的榮耀？聖靈也賜給我們各種恩賜，讓我們在教會中事奉神。你知道你有什麼恩賜嗎？你是否積極地使用這些恩賜參與事奉？我們必須在日常生活和教會生活中倚靠聖靈而活。

3. 介紹君王 Presented the King

神向撒母耳預告祂所揀選的君王。隨後，神預備掃羅作王。現在撒母耳準備將王介紹給他的子民。他召開了全民大會。請看第 17-19 節：17 **撒母耳將百姓招聚到米斯巴耶和華那裏，18 對他們說：「耶和華－以色列的神如此說：『我領你們以色列人出埃及，救你們脫離埃及人的手，又救你們脫離欺壓你們各國之人的手。』19 你們今日卻厭棄了救你們脫離一切災難的神，說：『求你立一個王治理我們。』**現在你們應當按着支派、宗族都站在耶和華面前。」以色列人之前聚集在米斯巴，承認他們拜偶像的罪，然後他們再次委身給神。現在他們得罪神，要求一個人做他們的領袖。但無論如何，神實現了他們的願望。撒母耳不是叫掃羅站出來，而是通過抽籤來介紹他們的王。在以色列的十二個支派中，便雅憫被選中。然後從一個支派縮小到一個家族，然後是基士的家，最後選上了掃羅。在聖經時代，人們通過掣籤來明白神的旨意。以色列人就這樣確定是亞干在耶利哥之戰中違背神的命令，私自收藏了一些戰利品。耶穌的門徒使用同樣的程序在猶士都和馬提亞之間做出選擇來代替猶大。一位牧師告訴我，他的教會以這個方法確定一位執事。當時兩名候選人都符合資格。經過長

時間的討論後，他們抽籤決定最後的人選。當然你不應該盲目地擲骰子，決定買哪棟房子或接受哪一份工作。如果你在禱告並評估了不同的方案後仍然無法作決定，你可以考慮憑信心抽籤。通過這個過程，撒母耳表明掃羅是神揀選的人。現在結果清楚了，但是卻找不到人。看第 22 節：**就問耶和華說：「那人到這裏來了沒有？」耶和華說：「他藏在器具中了。」**掃羅可能是害羞、膽怯或謙卑。不知為何，他似乎還沒有準備好做王。當摩西被神呼召時，他沒有信心接受那個任務。他請求神找別人。神會裝備那些祂呼召的人。恩賜、才能和機會都來自祂。感到能力不足或是任務重大應該使我們更加依靠神。畢竟，神不需要我們，但我們時刻都需要祂。結果，人們找到掃羅了。請繼續讀第 23-24 節：**23 眾人就跑去從那裏領出他來。他站在百姓中間，身體比眾民高過一頭。24 撒母耳對眾民說：「你們看耶和華所揀選的人，眾民中有可比他的嗎？」眾民就大聲歡呼說：「願王萬歲！」**以色列人很高興有了他們的王。請注意，作者只提到掃羅的身高。然後撒母耳要求人們「看」他們的王。人們很滿意，因為掃羅看起來像其他國家的王。他年輕、高大、英俊。他們很快便會知道掃羅是否可以勝任做一個真正的領袖。世界只注重外表。廣告都是關乎於產品的包裝。我們應該在屬靈領袖身上注意什麼素質？在朋友甚至未來的配偶身上呢？你只能從遠處看到別人的外表。你會知道他們的性別、種族、大致年齡、體格等。當你和他們交談時，你會了解他們的性格。你可以感覺到他們是溫暖還是冰冷，有禮貌還是粗魯，謙卑還是驕傲。你需要花時間交談或是一起工作，才能真正認識一個人。另外，一個人的外在條件最終都會改變。唯有良善、忠誠和恩慈等敬虔的美德才會持久。這些特質可能不是你與生俱來的。你必須花時間與神在一起，讓祂使你更成熟，變得更像基督。

結論 CONCLUSION

現在以色列人有了他們想要的王。如果王和他的人民繼續倚靠神，他們就會繁榮昌盛。隨後的歷史證明，沒有一個以色列王是完美的。神希望祂的子民在絕望中轉向祂。在神心中有一個很不一樣的王，就是祂的兒子耶穌基督。祂看起來不像外邦的君王。以賽亞書 53:2 描述：**他在耶和華面前生長如嫩芽，像根出於乾地。他無佳形美容；我們看見他的時候，也無美貌使我們羨慕他。**耶穌沒有吸引人的外表，祂也不是住在皇宮裡。祂教導一種與世界相反的價值觀念。祂鼓勵人們捨己，為別人犧牲，在神面前謙卑。祂告訴人們，祂的國不是在地上，而是在天上。巡撫彼拉多審問耶穌時，他對猶太人說：**「看哪，你們的王！」**（約翰福音 19:14）。但他們否認他們的王，並要求彼拉多把耶穌送到十字架上。沒有人能想像這位被拒絕的王是為我們的罪而死。耶穌是我們應該仰望真正的王。我們今生跟隨祂，有一天我們會在永恆中仰望祂的榮美。