

¹وَكَانَ رَجُلٌ مِنْ بَنِيَامِينَ اسْمُهُ قَيْسُ بْنُ أَبِيئِيلَ بْنِ
 صَرُورَ بْنِ بَكُورَةَ بْنِ أَفِيحَ، ابْنُ رَجُلٍ بَنِيَامِينِيٍّ جَبَّارٍ
 بَاسٍ.²وَكَانَ لَهُ ابْنٌ اسْمُهُ شَاوُلُ، شَابٌّ وَحَسَنٌ، وَلَمْ
 يَكُنْ رَجُلٌ فِي بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَحْسَنَ مِنْهُ. مِنْ كَيْفِهِ فَمَا
 قَوُّوَكَ كَانَ أَطْوَلَ مِنْ كُلِّ الشَّعْبِ.³فَصَلَّتْ أُمُّ قَيْسِ أَبِي
 شَاوُلَ. فَقَالَ قَيْسُ لِشَاوُلَ ابْنِهِ، جُدْ مَعَكَ وَاحِدًا مِنَ
 الْعُلَمَاءِ وَفُؤْمِ أَذْهَبْ قَنَسْ عَلَى الْأُتْنِ.⁴فَعَبَّرَ فِي جَبَلِ
 أَفْرَايِمَ، ثُمَّ عَبَّرَ فِي أَرْضِ شَلِيْشَةَ فَلَمْ يَجِدْهَا. ثُمَّ عَبَّرَا
 فِي أَرْضِ سَعْلِيمَ فَلَمْ يَوْجِدْ. ثُمَّ عَبَّرَا فِي أَرْضِ بَنِيَامِينَ
 فَلَمْ يَجِدْهَا.⁵وَلَمَّا دَخَلَا أَرْضَ صُوفٍ قَالَ شَاوُلُ لِعُلَامِيهِ
 الَّذِي مَعَهُ، تَعَالِ تَرْجِعْ لِيَلَّا يَبْتَزُّكَ أَبِي الْأُتْنِ وَبَهْتَمَ
 يَتَا. فَقَالَ لَهُ، هُوَذَا رَجُلُ اللَّهِ فِي هَذِهِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَالرَّجُلُ
 مُكْرَّمٌ، كُلُّ مَا يَقُولُهُ يَصِيرُ. لِيَذْهَبِ الْآنَ إِلَى هُنَاكَ لَعَلَّهُ
 يُخْبِرُنَا عَنْ طَرِيقَتِنَا الَّتِي نَسْلُكُ فِيهَا.⁷فَقَالَ شَاوُلُ لِلْعُلَامِ،
 هُوَذَا تَذْهَبُ، فَمَادَا تُقَدِّمُ لِلرَّجُلِ. لَأَنَّ الْخُبْرَ قَدْ تَقَدَّ مِنْ
 أَوْعِيَّتِنَا وَلَيْسَ مِنْ هَدْيَةٍ تُقَدِّمُهَا لِرَجُلِ اللَّهِ. مَاذَا
 مَعَنَا. فَقَادَ الْعُلَامُ وَأَجَابَ شَاوُلَ، هُوَذَا يُوجَدُ بِيَدِي رُبْعُ
 شَاقِلٍ فَضِيَّةٍ فَأَعْطِيهِ لِرَجُلِ اللَّهِ فَيُخْبِرُنَا عَنْ
 طَرِيقَتِنَا.⁹سَابِقًا فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ هَكَذَا كَانَ يَقُولُ الرَّجُلُ عِنْدَ
 دِهَابِهِ لِيَسْأَلَ اللَّهَ، هَلُمَّ تَذْهَبْ إِلَى الرَّائِي. لَأَنَّ النَّبِيَّ
 الْيَوْمَ كَانَ يُدْعَى سَابِقًا الرَّائِي.¹⁰فَقَالَ شَاوُلُ لِعُلَامِيهِ،
 كَلَامُكَ حَسَنٌ. هَلُمَّ تَذْهَبْ. فَذَهَبَا إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ الَّتِي فِيهَا
 رَجُلُ اللَّهِ.¹¹وَفِيمَا هُمَا صَاعِدَانِ فِي مَطْلَعِ الْمَدِينَةِ
 صَادِقًا قَتِيَابَ حَارِجَاتٍ لِاسْتِقَاءِ الْمَاءِ. فَقَالَا لَهُنَّ، أَهْنَا
 الرَّائِي.¹²فَأَجَبَتْهُمَا، تَعْمُ. هُوَذَا هُوَ أَمَامَكُمَا. أَسْرَعَا الْآنَ،
 لِأَنَّهُ جَاءَ الْيَوْمَ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ لِأَنَّهُ الْيَوْمَ ذَبِيحَةٌ لِلشَّعْبِ
 عَلَى الْمُرْتَفَعَةِ.¹³عِنْدَ دُخُولِكُمَا الْمَدِينَةَ لِلْوَقْتِ تَجِدَانِيهِ
 قَبْلَ صُغُودِهِ إِلَى الْمُرْتَفَعَةِ لِيَأْكُلَ لِأَنَّ الشَّعْبَ لَا يَأْكُلُ
 حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ لِأَنَّهُ يُبَارِكُ الذَّبِيحَةَ. بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ يَأْكُلُ الْمَدْعُودُونَ.
 قَالَا لِأَنَّهُمَا لَانْتَكَمَا فِي مِثْلِ الْيَوْمِ تَجِدَانِيهِ.¹⁴فَصَعِدَا إِلَى
 الْمَدِينَةِ. وَفِيمَا هُمَا آتِيَانِ فِي وَسْطِ الْمَدِينَةِ إِذَا
 بِصُغُودَيْلٍ خَارِجٍ لِقَائِهِمَا لِيَصْعَدَ إِلَى الْمُرْتَفَعَةِ.¹⁵وَالرَّبُّ
 كَشَفَ أَدْنَ صُغُودَيْلَ قَبْلَ مَجِيئِ شَاوُلَ يَوْمَ قَائِلًا،¹⁶عَدَا
 فِي مِثْلِ الْآنَ أُرْسِلُ إِلَيْكَ رَجُلًا مِنْ أَرْضِ بَنِيَامِينَ،
 فَاْمْسُخُهُ رَئِيسًا لِشُعْبِي إِسْرَائِيلَ، فَيُخَلِّصَ شُعْبِي مِنْ يَدِ
 الْفِلِسْطِينِيِّينَ، لِأَنِّي تَطَرْتُ إِلَى شُعْبِي لِأَنَّ صُرَاخَهُمْ قَدْ
 جَاءَ إِلَيَّ.¹⁷فَلَمَّا رَأَى صُغُودَيْلُ شَاوُلَ قَالَ الرَّبُّ، هُوَذَا
 الرَّجُلُ الَّذِي كَلَّمْتُكَ عَنْهُ. هَذَا يَصِيبُ شُعْبِي.¹⁸فَتَقَدَّمَ

¹Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.²And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.³And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.⁴And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.⁵And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us.⁶And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.⁷Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?⁸And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.⁹(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of

سَاوُلُ إِلَى صَمُوئِيلَ فِي وَسْطِ الْبَابِ وَقَالَ، أَطْلُبُ إِلَيْكَ، أَخْبِرْنِي أَيْنَ بَيْتُ الرَّائِي.¹⁹ فَأَجَابَ صَمُوئِيلُ سَاوُلَ، أَيْ الرَّائِي. إِضْعَدَا أَمَامِي إِلَى الْمُرْتَقَعَةِ فَتَأْكُلَا مَعِيَ الْيَوْمَ ثُمَّ أَطْلِقْكَ صَبَاحًا وَأَخْبِرْكَ بِكُلِّ مَا فِي قَلْبِكَ.²⁰ وَأَمَّا الْاُنُّ الصَّالُّ لَكَ مُنْذُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ فَلَا تَصْغُ قَلْبَكَ عَلَيْهَا لِأَنَّهَا قَدْ وُجِدَتْ. وَلِمَنْ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ إِسْرَائِيلَ. أَلَيْسَ لَكَ وَلِكُلِّ بَيْتِ أَبِيكَ.²¹ فَقَالَ سَاوُلُ، أَمَا أَنَا بَنِيَامِينِي مِنْ أَصْغَرِ أَسْبَاطِ إِسْرَائِيلَ، وَعَشِيرَتِي أَصْغَرُ كُلِّ عَشَائِرِ أَسْبَاطِ بَنِيَامِينٍ. فَلِمَاذَا تُكَلِّمُنِي بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْكَلَامِ.²² فَأَخَذَ صَمُوئِيلُ سَاوُلَ وَعَلَامَتَهُ وَأَدْخَلَهُمَا إِلَى الْقَاعَةِ وَأَعْطَاهُمَا مَكَانًا فِي رَأْسِ الْمُدْعَوِينَ، وَهُمْ تَحُو ثَلَاثِينَ رَجُلًا.²³ وَقَالَ صَمُوئِيلُ لِلطَّبَاحِ، هَاتِ النَّصِيبَ الَّذِي أُعْطَيْتُكَ إِيَّاهُ، الَّذِي قُلْتُ لَكَ عَنْهُ صَعُهُ عِنْدَكَ.²⁴ فَزَفَعَ الطَّبَاحُ السَّاقَ مَعَ مَا عَلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَهَا أَمَامَ سَاوُلَ. فَقَالَ، هُوَذَا مَا أَنْفَعِي. صَعُهُ أَمَامَكَ وَكُلْ. لِأَنَّهُ إِلَى هَذَا الِامِيعَادِ مَحْفُوطٌ لَكَ مُنْذُ دَعَوْتُ الشَّعْبَ. فَأَكَلَ سَاوُلُ مَعَ صَمُوئِيلَ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ.²⁵ وَلَمَّا تَرَلُوا مِنَ الْمُرْتَقَعَةِ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ تَكَلَّمَ مَعَ سَاوُلَ عَلَى السَّطْحِ.²⁶ وَتَكْرُوا. وَكَانَ عِنْدَ طُلُوعِ الْفَجْرِ أَنَّ صَمُوئِيلَ دَعَا سَاوُلَ عَنِ السَّطْحِ قَائِلًا، قُمْ فَأَصْرِقْكَ. فَقَامَ سَاوُلُ وَخَرَجَا كِلَاهُمَا، هُوَ وَصَمُوئِيلُ إِلَى خَارِجِ.²⁷ وَفِيمَا هُمَا تَارِلَانِ يَطْرَفِ الْمَدِينَةِ قَالَ صَمُوئِيلُ لِسَاوُلَ، قُلْ لِلْغُلَامِ أَنْ يَغْتَبِرَ قُدَّامَنَا. فَعَبَّرَ. وَأَمَّا أَنْتَ فَفِي الْآنَ فَأَسْمِعْكَ كَلَامَ اللَّهِ.

God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)¹⁰ Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was.¹¹ And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?¹² And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:¹³ As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.¹⁴ And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.¹⁵ Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,¹⁶ To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.¹⁷ And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.¹⁸ Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.¹⁹ And Samuel answered Saul, and

said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.²⁰ And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?²¹ And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?²² And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons.²³ And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.²⁴ And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.²⁵ And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house.²⁶ And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad.²⁷ And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he

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passed on,) but stand thou still a while,
that I may shew thee the word of God.