

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on**  
***Sefer Shmuel: Perakim Tet-Yud***  
**by Zvi Grumet**

**פרק ט**

1. This פרק provides a multitude of small details – his physical description, his dedication to his father, his search for the donkeys, his unfamiliarity with שמואל, and his interaction with the girls – each of which in some way describes שאול. Based on this פרק, describe שאול.
2. Why did שאול think it was necessary to bring a gift to the נביא?
3. Why do you think that שמואל's name is missing from the first half of this פרק (even though he is discussed several times)?
4. Look carefully at פסוק ט. What would we have expected ה' to have said instead of what the text records? See also the follow-up to this in יא:.
5. By the end of this פרק, do the people know what was ה' decision about their request for a king?
6. Later in this ספר we will see that שאול's reign as king will ultimately not be successful. Do you think that this פרק is trying to describe why ה' chose שאול for the throne or why his reign ultimately failed?

**פרק י**

1. What status did שמואל confer upon שאול? Compare יא: with יט:.
2. What were the three strange things that שמואל said were going to happen to שאול on his way home? What purpose do they serve?
3. Notice the similarity between יב: and ט:.
4. The root צלח comes up a few times in this פרק, including in the name of the place צלח. This is the only place in תנ"ך where that name appears!
5. שמואל gathers everyone to המצפה for שאול's anointing. When was the last time that שמואל gathered people to the מצפה?
6. Notice that שאול is anointed twice in this פרק. What's the difference between the two anointings? Why is there a need for two?
7. What was שאול's reaction to being anointed? How did he view himself? How do you think others viewed him?
8. Compare יכ: with יד:.
9. From what שבט is שאול? For background on the significance of this, see שופטים כ:ל-מח.