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*“Open Church – Open Bible”*

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# *Sunday Church School*

## *July 26, 2020*

“Saul Anointed King”— I Sam. 9:25-27 10:1-16

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“1 Sam. 9:25-27; 10:1-16”

<sup>25</sup> When they had come down from the high place into the city, *Samuel* spoke with Saul on the top of the house.

<sup>26</sup> They arose early; and it was about the dawning of the day that Samuel called to Saul on the top of the house, saying, "Get up, that I may send you on your way." And Saul arose, and both of them went outside, he and Samuel.

<sup>27</sup> As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God."

**1 Samuel 10:1** Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured *it* on his head, and kissed him and said: "*Is it* not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"

<sup>2</sup> When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"'

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“1 Sam. 9:25-27; 10:1-16”

<sup>3</sup> Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine.

<sup>4</sup> And they will greet you and give you two *loaves* of bread, which you shall receive from their hands.

<sup>5</sup> After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison *is*. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying.

<sup>6</sup> Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

<sup>7</sup> And let it be, when these signs come to you, *that* you do as the occasion demands; for God *is* with you.

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“1 Sam. 9:25-27; 10:1-16”

<sup>8</sup> You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings *and* make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do.”

<sup>9</sup> So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.

<sup>10</sup> When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

<sup>11</sup> And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, “What is this *that* has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?”

<sup>12</sup> Then a man from there answered and said, “But who is their father?” Therefore it became a proverb: “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

<sup>13</sup> And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place.

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“1 Sam. 9:25-27; 10:1-16”

<sup>14</sup> Then Saul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" So he said, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that *they were nowhere to be found*, we went to Samuel."

<sup>15</sup> And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you."

<sup>16</sup> So Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, he did not tell him what Samuel had said.

The different forms of government, were mentioned in a previous lesson (i.e., **monarchy, democracy, dictatorship, oligarchy, republic and theocracy**).

There are also different ways people become heads of state or come to occupy other governmental posts.

It was typical in antiquity for power to pass from father to son, and there are still places in the world that still operate as a **hereditary monarchy**.

- This series of rulers constitutes what is known as a **dynasty**



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## **“Saul Anointed King”**

In ancient Israel, the first kings were chosen by God; so in the case of both Saul and David, Samuel was charged with anointing them.

But just because they were divinely selected did not mean they were immune to sin; for in one sense, all rulers are divinely chosen (I Sam. 2:7-8; Psl. 75:7; Dan. 2:21), but they are also responsible for their actions and judged accordingly.

### **LESSON OUTLINE**

- I. SAUL CONSECRATED KING** —I Sam. 9:25—10:1
- II. SAMUEL’S COMMISSION FOR SAUL** —I Sam. 10:6-8
- III. SAUL’S CHANGE OF HEART** —I Sam. 10:9-13
- IV. SAUL CONCEALS HIS CONSECRATION** —I Sam. 10:14-16
- I. SAUL CONSECRATED KING** —I Sam. 9:25—10:1

At the end of last week’s lesson, the Lord told Samuel to honor Israel’s request and choose a king for them.



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## “Saul Anointed King”



As I Sam 9 chapter opens, we are introduced to Saul, “a choice [**bāhûr**– a choosing with Divine implications] young man” V 2). He was the son of Kish, “a mighty man [**ghibbôr îsh**] of power” (vs. 1), meaning he was influential and wealthy.

- Saul being tall and handsome had all the **external markings of a leader**

Chapter 9 ends with Samuel communing with Saul upon the top of the house; as Saul lodged with the prophet for that night.

Before retiring to rest, they communed on the flat roof of the house, the sleeping mat (couch) was laid there (Jos 2:6) as Samuel revealed the secret and described the duties of a monarch in Israel.

Early the next morning early, Samuel roused his guest, and convening with him on his way towards the skirts of the city – and in a private and parting interview, revealed the objective of their meeting in I Sam 10



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Exactly why this was to be done privately is unstated. It would not be long, however, before all Israel would recognize Saul as their king.

**10:1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil**—This was the ancient (Judges 9:8) **ceremony of investiture** with the royal office among the Hebrews and others.

But there were **two unctions to the kingly office**

- (a) the one in private, by a prophet (I Sam 16:13), which was meant to be a prophetic intimation of the person attaining that high dignity
- (b) the second a more public and formal inauguration (II Sam. 2:4; 5:3) which was performed by the high priest, and perhaps with the holy oil.

The first of a dynasty was thus anointed (**māshah**), but not his heirs, unless the succession was disputed (I Kings 1:39; II Kings 11:12; 23:30; II Chron. 23:11).

• Samuel also **kissed him**—a salutation, that was an act of respectful homage, and a **token of congratulation** to the new king (Psl. 2:12).



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### II. SAMUEL’S COMMISSION FOR SAUL —I Sam. 10:6-8

- **In V 6** Samuel explains the nature of Saul’s empowerment for the assignment
  - **the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee**—literally, “rush upon thee,” suddenly endowing him with a capacity to act in a manner far superior to any previous character and habits he may have exhibited
  - and instead of the simplicity, ignorance, and sheepishness of a peasant, thou wilt display an energy, wisdom, and magnanimity worthy of a prince.
- **V 8. thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal**—This, according to Josephus, was to be a standing rule for Saul as long as he and the prophet lived
  - In every great crisis or hostile incursion on Israel, he should go to Gilgal where he was to remain seven days, to allow ample time for the tribes on both sides Jordan to assemble, and Samuel to reach it.



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Before Saul left Samuel, the prophet told him that a number of things would occur.

- a) First, Saul would be informed that the donkeys had been found (V. 2).
- b) Second, he would meet three men who would offer him food (V3-4).
- c) Third, he would encounter a band of prophets who would prophesy (V 5).
  - These were the “signs” (vs. 7) the Lord would give Saul, assuring him of **God’s presence with him.**
  - The text says “all those signs came to pass that day.”(v 9)

### III. SAUL’S CHANGE OF HEART

—I Sam. 10:9-13

- As Saul turned to leave Samuel, something extraordinary happened: “**God gave him another heart.**”
- Clearly, Saul was in some sense transformed or changed by God’s power.
- Influenced by the words of Samuel, as well as by the accomplishment of these signs, Saul’s reluctance to undertake the onerous office was overcome
- One who once caring for cattle, was now skillfully operating in the spirit of a prophet giving rise to the proverb “Is Saul also among the prophets (I Sam 19:24)



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- This does not suggest, of course, that Saul became part of the prophetic ministry led by Samuel, but only that he was able to exercise a prophetic gift, at least on this occasion, though never having received prophetic training.
- This was a remarkable and convincing sign of God’s presence and power in Saul’s life.
- “Hill” in Hebrew is Gibeah [gib’â] , meaning “hill of God.”
- When Saul and his servant came to this place, a group of prophets met them; often signifying disciples of a notable prophet (I Kings 20:35; II Kings 2:3-7).
- Some thought that Saul’s behavior was strange, and they doubted him (v 12-13) and we are reminded of the words of Christ that everyone who does miraculous things are not necessarily operating in the power or approval of God (Matt. 7:21-23).
- Once Saul ceased to prophesy, which seems to have been a temporary phenomenon, he went on to the “high place” (I Sam. 10:13), that is, the place of worship at Gibeah



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### **IV. SAUL CONCEALS HIS CONSECRATION —I Sam. 10:14-16**

- Once Saul returned home, his uncle asked where they had been – perhaps noticing something different about Saul’s demeanor
- Answering truthfully that they had been looking for Kish’s lost donkeys and had visited Samuel the prophet.

Saul had everything in his favor:

- (1) a strong body, 10:23
- (2) a humble mind, 9:21
- (3) a new heart, 10:9
- (4) spiritual power, 10:10
- (5) loyal friends, 10:26; and most of all and
- (6) the guidance and prayers of Samuel.

Yet in spite of these advantages, he failed miserably. Why? Because he **would not allow God to be the Lord of his life.**



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## **“TEACHING OBJECTIVES”**



**Facts: to know that we set ourselves up for disappointment when we do not trust in the Lord.**

**Principle: to realize that while other people will let us down, God cannot fail us at any time.**

**Application: to trust God’s faithfulness when circumstances look dire or unsettled; His track record is unblemished.**



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## **“FURTHER STUDY QUESTIONS”**



1. What do we know about Saul’s family background?? What is the significance of knowing this?
2. How was the loss of the donkeys providential?
3. Why do you think Samuel wanted to deliver God’s message to Saul in private?
4. What is meant by Saul’s being “turned into another man” (1 Sam. 10:6)?
5. What was the point of Saul waiting seven days for Samuel?
6. What was the source of Saul’s change of heart?

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