

1st Samuel 10

Verse 1

Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on Saul's head, kissed him, and said, "Has the LORD not anointed you as ruler over His inheritance?"

This private ceremony, for the anointing of kings, came from God and it signified God's approval of Saul as the new leader of Israel.

In general the role of a judge in Israel included judging various civil matters and/or leading Israel into battle during times of war. However, Samson did neither of these but rather he acted alone to create havoc for the Philistines when Israel could not stand up against them. So what did Israel gain by asking for a king?

Verses 2 - 7

² When you leave me today, then you will find two men close to 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. Now behold, your father has stopped talking about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What am I to do about my son?"' ³ Then you will go on further from there, and you will come as far as the oak of Tabor, and 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 jug of wine. ⁴ And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, *which* you will accept from their hand. ⁵ Afterward you will come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is; and it shall be as soon as you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and a lyre in front of them, and they will be prophesying. ⁶ Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be changed into a different man. ⁷ And it shall be when these signs come to you, do for yourself what the occasion requires, because God is with you.

² When you leave me today...

The elevation of Saul to the throne was hard for him to believe. Therefore Samuel gave him 3 signs so he would be sure that this was from God.

1. Saul will meet two men by Rachel's tomb who will give him word that the donkeys had been found.
2. He will meet three men at the oak of Tabor and they would give him two loaves of bread.
3. Saul will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place and they will be prophesying. Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you. You will prophesy with them and be changed into a different man.

Verse 8

⁸ And you shall go down ahead of me to Gilgal; and behold, I will be coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings. You shall wait seven days until I come to you and inform you of what you should do.

Saul & Samuel were in Ramah and Saul was supposed to go ahead of Samuel to Gilgal.

See maps 1005



But according to Samuel's own words Saul would not go directly to Gilgal because He would first go by Rachel's tomb (near Bethlehem) then to the oak of Tabor (unknown) and then to the hill of God (near Gibeah) and from there to Gilgal.

See map 1010



Verses 9 -13

⁹ Then it happened, when he turned his back to leave Samuel, that God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day. ¹⁰ When they came there to the hill, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, so that he prophesied among them. ¹¹ And it came about, when all who previously knew him saw that he was indeed prophesying with the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" ¹² And a man from there responded and said, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a saying: "Is Saul also among the prophets?" ¹³ When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

⁹ Then it happened, when he turned his back to leave Samuel, that God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day.

When Samuel told Saul what would happen to him after he left him that day it sounded like there was a definite order because Samuel said **then, then and afterward**.

However, as soon as Saul turned to leave it says that “God changed his heart” but Samuel said the last thing that would happen to Saul was that he would be “changed into a different man”. One might argue those two things don’t mean the same thing but that is an argument without a difference.

For the time being this remains a mystery.

¹⁰ When they came there to the hill, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, so that he prophesied among them.

God had already changed Saul’s heart but God wanted the First King of Israel to have the same advantage that the Judges received. The Spirit of God came upon the judges and some of them received superhuman strength or Divine guidance in how to defeat the enemy.

¹¹ And it came about, when all who previously knew him saw that he was indeed prophesying with the prophets, that the people said to one another, “What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” ¹² And a man from there responded and said, “And who is their father?” Therefore it became a saying: “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

His neighbors and acquaintances could see that a major change had taken place in Saul. Previously Saul was not known for hanging around much less joining in with this group of prophets. And they were right, Saul had been given a new heart and he was doing something that he had never experienced before.

The man who responded by asking “and who is their father” made an apt observation. The gift of prophecy does not come by the flesh, but from the inspiration of the Spirit of God.

¹³ When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

This is a reference to the hill near Gibeah where the prophets came from (vs5).

Verses 14 - 16

¹⁴ Now Saul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they were nowhere *to be found*, we went to Samuel." ¹⁵ Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." ¹⁶ So Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But he did not tell him about the matter of the kingdom which Samuel had mentioned.

Saul kept quiet about being anointed and the miracles that had taken place. It seems likely that Samuel told him not to tell anyone since the official ceremony (where God would choose the king) had not taken place yet.

Verses 17 - 19

¹⁷ Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah; ¹⁸ and he said to the sons of Israel, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: 'I brought Israel up from Egypt, and I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the power of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' ¹⁹ But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your catastrophes and your distresses; yet you have said, 'No, but put a king over us!' Now then, present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your groups of thousands."

Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah

See map 1015



Mizpah refers to a heap of stones set up by Jacob and Laban.

See Gen 31.25, 46 - 50

²⁵ And Laban caught up with Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen camped in the hill country of Gilead.

⁴⁶ Jacob said to his relatives, “Gather stones.” So they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷ Now Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it-Galeed. ⁴⁸ Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me this day.” Therefore it was named Galeed, ⁴⁹ and Mizpah, for he said, “May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other. ⁵⁰ *If you mistreat my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, **although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.”***

¹⁹ But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your catastrophes and your distresses; yet you have said, ‘No, but put a king over us!’ Now then, present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your groups of thousands.”

This procedure was used so that lots could be cast in order to determine who the king of Israel would be. The same procedure was used following the battle of Ai when Achan was discovered by lot

See Joshua 7:16

¹⁶ So Joshua got up early in the morning and brought Israel forward by tribes, and the tribe of Judah was selected. ¹⁷ So he brought the family of Judah forward, and he selected the family of the Zerahites; then he brought the family of the Zerahites forward man by man, and Zabdi was selected. ¹⁸ And he brought his household forward man by man; and Achan, son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, was selected.

The person chosen was determined by a process of elimination.

It wouldn't take long to pick the tribe, the family line, the family, and finally the household.

The High Priest used the Urim and Thummim to determine each step of the elimination process. One of two stones was chosen; this indicated a yes or no answer to each inquiry.

See pic 1020



Verses 20 - 24

²⁰ So Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel forward; and the tribe of Benjamin was selected by lot. ²¹ Then he brought the tribe of Benjamin forward by its families, and the Matrite family was selected by lot. And Saul the son of Kish was selected by lot; but when they looked for him, he could not be found. ²² Therefore they inquired further of the Lord: “Has the man come here yet?” And the Lord said, “Behold, he is hiding himself among the baggage.” ²³ So 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 Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? Surely there is no one like him among all the people.” So all the people shouted and said, “*Long live the king!*”

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This process of choosing the king by “lot” was seen as coming from the Lord.

See Proverbs 16:33

²² Therefore they inquired further of the Lord: “Has the man come here yet?” And the Lord said, “Behold, he is hiding himself among the baggage.”

The question about Saul’s presence could be answered by the lot. But God’s reply was most likely a verbal reply.

²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? Surely there is no one like him among all the people.” So all the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!”

The Lord chose the best man he could find for the job (given the fallen nature of mankind) and the people (in general) were impressed.

Verses 25 -27

²⁵ Then Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and wrote *them* in the book, and placed *it* before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his house. ²⁶ Saul also went to his house in Gibeah; and the valiant *men* whose hearts God had touched went with him. ²⁷ But certain useless men said, “How can this one save us?” And they despised him and did not bring him a gift. But he kept silent *about it*.

²⁵ Then Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and wrote *them* in the book, and placed *it* before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his house.

This book may have been passed on from one king to another. But it seems that it was mostly ignored from what we know about the kings of Israel.

²⁶ Saul also went to his house in Gibeah; and the valiant *men* whose hearts God had touched went with him.

Saul was the first king of Israel so there was no kingly palace to move into.

But Saul did have a number of valiant men who went with him because they had been touched by God to do so. These men would have been like a security detail to protect the new king.

²⁷ **But certain useless men said, “How can this one save us?” And they despised him and did not bring him a gift. But he kept silent *about it*.**

Saul was chosen after a public casting of lots so no one could rightly say this was an unfair process. If anyone had a problem with the outcome they could only blame God or accuse the High Priest and the other witnesses of tampering with the results. Of course none of this happened but there were some useless men who objected.