

'The Rise of the Kings Series'

Sermons in the Book of 1 Samuel

Message 15 - 'Anointed and Announced' 1 Samuel 9:27 - 10:27



The nation of Israel was about to have its first King as we can see in these verses. It does us well to remember that God is ever at work and is fulfilling His purposes every moment of the day, and that includes His purposes for you. It is interesting, that one of the main aspects that we can see is that for much of the narrative there are not many who actually know how the Lord is working His purposes out, but He was and is. We can consider the following:

1. Seal of Anointing (9:27-10:1) – In a private conversation, Israel's first king was anointed with oil. As Samuel declares, from that moment, Saul was leader over God's people, or the 'inheritance'. This significant moment in the history of Israel takes place in a most understated way, and only the Lord, Samuel, and Saul knew what had happened. How could young Saul really know that he was chosen in this manner? So many questions, and no apparent answers. There are occasions in our lives when we are faced with a situation that we just seems to throw more questions than answers at us, and when we look at ourselves, we begin to panic. As with Saul on this occasion, we have to be those who quietly and faithfully trust in the Lord to bring all things to pass.

2. Signs of Assurance (10:2-16) - The Lord would gave three signs to assure Saul. The first sign would be that Saul would meet two men who would inform him that the lost animals had been found (10:2). This sign would help Saul to see and assure him that God could solve his problems. We cannot solve our problems, and we must rely on the Lord alone. The second sign would take place at the oak of Tabor. Here Saul would meet some pilgrims heading to Bethel. Saul would be given two of the three loaves, and he was told that he must take them. The Lord was showing Saul that not only could He solves his problems, but certainly that He could also provide for all His needs. The Lord will provide for our need, and if we depend on the Lord, then He will sustain us. The third sign saw Saul given spiritual power. Saul would be given an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and as such would be able to join the prophets in this. God was making it clear that He could endure Him with all that He needed for service. The servant of God must never forget that God is the One who equips. . Saul was to receive the power of the Holy Spirit, and the direction of the word through Samuel. The Spirit would give power; but it was a power that should be used in obedience to the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must NEVER be separated.

3. Struck by Amnesia (10:16-27) - Saul had been given some very clear lessons, but how quickly he forgot, and how quickly the situation had to be salvaged. The Lord and Samuel knew that the king was already in place, but Samuel was keen to impress on the tribes that the Lord was wholly in control of the selection. The only problem was, Saul was missing! Saul was hiding in the equipment, the wagons and baggage. Not an inspiring start for the king, and not one that would endue the people with confidence. This first public occasion reveals the tenure of Saul's reign as it would be. Here was a man who would be tossed by his emotions rather than leading steadfastly and faithfully resting on the Lord. If only Saul had learned the lessons that the Lord had made clear to them, and clung to them steadfastly, but he purposes to go his own way and that ends in disaster.



Penzance Baptist Church

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