

1 **SAUL’S CORONATION**

1 Samuel 10

2 **KING SAUL**

- Saul is the first king of Israel and the only king of his family line to sit the throne.
- To understand the life of King David and the events that will come later, it is vital that we first understand Saul.
- Saul is an especially important and tragic figure to us, since he has an ignoble end despite his auspicious beginnings.

3 **GOD’S CALL**

- 1) Not for common use
 - The anointing oil used to anoint prophets, priests, and kings was of a special blend, not to be duplicated or used for mundane purpose. Likewise, no common oil was to be used for the anointing.
- 2) Not for your glory
 - God’s call on Saul’s life was for the Lord and His heritage, not for Saul’s own promotion or glory.

4 **3) MAKES YOU ANEW**

- *Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do." When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. (1Sa 10:7-9)*

5 **SAUL’S NEW HEART**

- As part of his anointing on Saul, God gives Saul “another heart.” This is a heart to do the task God has given him: to lead and shepherd the Lord’s inheritance.
- Saul is one of three individuals (or groups) who have their hearts changed in this passage.
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6 **4) GIVES ANOTHER PURPOSE**

- *When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place. (1Sa 10:10-13)*

7 **SAUL IS AMONG THE PROPHETS**

- To “prophesy” means to speak in the place of another. It does not necessarily mean that Saul was foretelling the future; it does mean that the spirit of God had come upon Saul and that he had been changed.
- This clear change – that Saul’s words were not his own and that he was endowed with a calling and purpose that went beyond his own – was obvious to everyone around him.

8 **5) WAITS ON GOD’S TIMING**

- *Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything. (1Sa 10:14-16)*

9 **SAUL HOLDS HIS PEACE**

- When Saul returns to his uncle, he tells him the whole story, but omits the parts about “the kingdom” and his anointing.
- According to 1 Samuel 15:17, Saul is “little in his own eyes.”
- Although some have accused Saul of timidity, his decision to wait and see what God would do is consistent with Samuel’s instructions.

10 **ISRAEL GATHERS**

- *Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah. And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands." (1Sa 10:17-19)*

11 **ISRAEL GATHERS**

- *Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. So they inquired again of the LORD, "Is there a man still to come?" and the LORD said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." (1Sa 10:20-22)*

12 **6) DOESN'T SEEK PROMOTION**

- *Then 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. And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!" Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home. (1Sa 10:23-25)*

13 **HIDING IN THE STUFF**

- The people of Israel come together at Mizpah to appoint a king to lead the unified kingdom.
- Saul is chosen in the presence of the nation of Israel, but he is initially reluctant to be made king - he is "hiding" in the baggage.
- Once he is brought out in front of the people, both Samuel and the people are deeply impressed by his carriage and bearing.

14 **WAS SAUL A COWARD?**

- Earlier, when Saul was being anointed, he argued that he, and his family, and his tribe, were

unworthy of the honor:

- *Saul answered, "Am I not a Benjamite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?" (1Sa 9:21)*

15 **THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN**

- The tribe of Benjamin had been almost completely destroyed when, after an act of horrible immorality, they were almost completely destroyed after a violent three day battle by their fellow Israelites.
- The last time the entire nation of Israel gathered at Mizpah, it was to pronounce doom upon the tribe of Benjamin (Judges 20).

16 **THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN**

- The piecemeal destruction of Benjamin by the rest of the nation of Israel in Judges 20-21 marks their shift from a predominate tribal military power (able to hold their own for three days against the entire nation of Israel) to the smallest and least of the tribes of Israel.
- Now, Israel is gathered again at Mizpah to make a Benjamite king.

17 **SAUL’S MODESTY**

- The idea of a timid Saul is completely inconsistent with all we know of his early life and character – as is the idea of Saul’s being reluctant to obey the Lord.
- Much more likely is the fact that Saul was “little in his own eyes” and hesitant to be made much of.

18 **7) ENLARGED BY GOD**

- *Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace. (1Sa 10:26-27)*

19 **MEN OF VALOR**

- “Men of valor” gathered around Saul – men who were skilled in war and whose hearts God had touched. These would eventually form the basis for Saul’s guard and military leaders.
- When the call of God is upon a person, it will be obvious to those around them whose hearts God has also touched, and this is how a ministry begins.

20 **WORTHLESS MEN**

- Some “worthless men” doubt Saul’s ability to lead them, or to deliver them from their enemies:
 - Possibly because he’s young
 - Possibly because he’s a Benjamite
 - Possibly because they were jealous
 - Possibly because there are some people you will never please

21 **SAUL HOLDS HIS PEACE**

- These worthless men refuse to bring a “present” – the customary gift or tribute for a new king, as seen elsewhere in Scripture.
- Not for the first time in this story, Saul demonstrates wisdom by “holding his peace.” He does not seek to demand what is his by right, nor does he demand the respect of

22 **SAUL HOLDS HIS PEACE**

- It is important that we, as we pursue our individual and shared callings, that we do not let mockery and opposition lure us into battles that distract us from our ultimate purpose.
- Saul understood that his kingship would be validated by his action – not his stature – and he held his peace.
- He would soon have the opportunity to put his calling to the test.