

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
SAUL IS ANOINTED TO BE KING
1 SAMUEL 10:1-24

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Introduction

In Chapter 8 we saw that Israel wanted a king:

- 1) Because they rejected the LORD.
- 2) Because of pride.

In Chapter 9 we saw that God used circumstances to bring about His will!

In Chapter 10 and verse 1 we see the private ceremony of Samuel anointing Saul to be King!

I. SAMUEL ANOINTED SAUL IN PRIVATE. (Vs 1)

A. Saul was *ANOINTED* to be King of Israel! (Vs 1a)

With that anointing, God's gracious *PROVISION* was poured out to him! God's *WISDOM and STRENGTH* were available to him!

However, Saul still **needed to be SUBMITTED TO and RESPONSIVE TO that anointing that was upon him in order for him to be the kind of king the LORD desired!**

B. Samuel Kissed Him! (Vs 1b)

This showed Samuel's personal support of Saul. It was important that the first king of Israel feel the support of the man of God. He was in unchartered territory!

C. Note What Samuel Said To Him! (Vs 1c)

"...the LORD hath anointed thee..."

Though Samuel poured the oil on his head, it was the LORD that anointed Saul! The oil was just symbolic of the real anointing.

"...to be captain over His inheritance"

Samuel reminds Saul that Israel belongs to the LORD, they are His inheritance. At the same time, Saul has an important job to do, because God has placed him as captain over His inheritance. Saul was the LORD's chosen vessel for this most important task!

II. SAUL IS PROVEN IN PROPHECY! (Vs 2-9)

A. Three Signs. (Vs 2-7)

Samuel verified Saul's anointing by foretelling three specific things that would happen to Saul! These were to give Saul confidence that his anointing by Samuel was really from God!

B. Specific Directions. (Vs 8)

1. ***"Do as occasion serve thee..."***

2. ***"Go down before me to Gilgal..."***

Why Gilgal? We're not told, but it was famous for the solemn renewing of the covenant between God and Israel found in Joshua 4:1-24.

Also, it was a very convenient place for the tribes within and without Jordan to assemble, and consult, and unite their forces together upon such occasions.

3. ***"...seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do."***

Saul is commanded to ***wait*** for Samuel at Gilgal.

This is an important command. By the nature of their office, kings do not wait for anybody. Others wait for them.

But Samuel commands Saul to wait for him, because the prophet of God had more real authority than this king over Israel!

Saul had to show that even though he was a king, he was submitted to the LORD, and the LORD's prophet. **Failing to wait for Samuel will get Saul into trouble on a future occasion.**

C. Three Fulfillments. (Vs 8-9)

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
SAUL IS ANOINTED TO BE KING
1 SAMUEL 10:1-24

III. SAUL PROPHECIES AMONG THE PROPHETS. (Vs 10-13)

This reception of the Holy Spirit was the real anointing.
The oil poured out on Saul's head was just a picture of this.
A gallon of oil could have been put on his head, but if the Spirit of the LORD did not come upon him, it would have meant nothing!

For God to use Saul to the fullest, he had to be turned into another man by the filling of the Spirit of the LORD.

The LORD's work is done as He says in *Zechariah 4:6*—“...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

When we let the Spirit of the LORD fill us and change us, then we can see the work of God really done.

The transformation was obvious to all who knew him beforehand! His prophesying was a sign of the LORD having given him a new heart! A new heart only comes from the LORD!

IV. SAUL FAILS TO TELL THE WHOLE STORY. (Vs. 14-16)

Of course, it seems strange that Saul would not tell of what he had experienced. Didn't he have a lot to tell about?

Was he having trouble accepting the fact that he was Israel's chosen king. Or maybe he was being wise, knowing that the LORD had to reveal him as king over Israel.

What point was there in saying, “I'm the king now!” until the LORD had declared him to be king?

V. SAUL IS PRESENTED IN PUBLIC. (Vs. 17-27)

A. Samuel's Speech To The Nation. (Vs 17-19)

Before God appoints a king for Israel, God reminds Israel of all He has done for them.

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
SAUL IS ANOINTED TO BE KING
1 SAMUEL 10:1-24

The LORD, speaking through Samuel, is showing Israel how their rejection of Him made so little sense. Why would anyone reject the one who Himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations?

B. Saul Is Selected By Lot. (Vs 20-21)

Why did God do it this way, when He had already anointed Saul as king over Israel? Because this would show the whole nation that Saul was the right man. It would show that God had chosen Saul, not that any man had chosen him.

The choosing by lot simply confirmed the word of the LORD through Samuel.

C. Saul Is Revealed To Be The King. (Vs 21-24)

1. His Humility Is Demonstrated. (Vs 22)

Here Saul shows a healthy embarrassment and humility. He was not looking forward to being the center of attention in front of the nation! In fact, by his actions he would seem to be dreading it.

Saul was not made king because of his own personal ambition, or to gratify a desire for the limelight.

The physical description of Saul shows he is exactly what the people wanted. Israel a king that would look good to the other nations!

2. His Calling Is Demonstrated. (Vs 26)

God called Saul to be king and lead the nation. Yet, this was not something he could do himself. He needed valiant men around him, men whose hearts God had touched.

3. His Self-Control Is Demonstrated. (Vs 27)

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
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1 SAMUEL 10:1-24

Saul should be recognized for his wise reaction (he held his peace).

An insecure or unwise leader, at this point, might feel the need to “crush” anyone that opposed him, or simply regard them as enemies. Saul did neither, understanding that it might take him some time to win over the doubters.

Conclusion

From this, we see that Saul started out with so much promise.

He was chosen and anointed by God.

He was filled with the Holy Spirit.

He had the support of a man of God like Samuel.

He had been given gifts appropriate to royalty.

He had the enthusiastic support and goodwill of most all the nation.

He had valiant men around him, men whose hearts God had touched to support him.

And, he had the wisdom to not regard every doubter, or every critic, as an enemy.

But despite all these great advantages, Saul still manages to blow it later.

It's not so much how you start, but how you finish!