

A CHARACTER STUDY IN

# THE LIFE OF SAMUEL

SAMUEL ANNOINTS SAUL KING

I Samuel 10:1 - 27

Adult Sunday School  
Gethsemane Baptist Church  
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## SAMUEL ANNOINTS SAUL KING

I Samuel 10:1

*“Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?”*

In chapter nine Saul makes his way, in the providence of God, to the prophet Samuel. God has already informed Samuel that Saul would come and that Samuel was to be ready for his arrival. The first thing that Samuel did was to take Saul to an assembly of the leaders of the people to present him to them. With these thirty people Samuel had a special meal prepared and placed Saul in the “chiefest place among them.” Saul is mystified and states, *“Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Wherefore then speakest thou so to me?”* (9:21) After the meal Samuel takes Saul to the roof top of a house that he might “commune with him”. “Doubtless, Samuel revealed the secret, and described the

peculiar duties of a monarch in a nation so related to the Divine King as Israel. Next morning early Samuel roused his guest, and conveying him on his way towards the skirts of the city, sought, before parting, a private interview." At this time he predicts three events that are going to happen to him on his way back home. These events are designed to show Saul that God would be there for him to meet his needs if he would seek Him. Before they part Saul anoints Saul to be king over Israel. He gives him a kiss of affection and to seal this act as being from the Lord.

Samuel predicts three events that would come to pass as Saul travels home. The first event was that he would meet two men that told him that his father's asses had been recovered. This was to assure him that his worldly responsibilities to his family and others would be met while he was leading God's people as king. The next thing was the meeting of three men who were carrying food. They would give him provision. Reminding him that God would meet his daily needs while he is doing the

will of God. As he goes on he passes a “garrison of the Philistines”. This reminds him of the fact of an enemy and the need that Israel has for his leadership. Finally, he meets a *“company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.”* (vs.10:5-6) This is a significant event in the life of Saul. This is where the Holy Spirit of God came upon him to enable him to do a work that was beyond his abilities. In the Old Testament the Spirit of God moved on a person to do a specific task. Later He might move off the person when the task was complete. Briefly stated, in our New Testament day the Holy Spirit enters our life when we get saved and never leaves us. He gives us strength, wisdom and direction. He marks us as God’s child. The result of the Holy Spirit coming up Saul is that he becomes a different man. He is *“turned into another man.”* (vs. 10:6) Before this experience Saul was an indecisive, ineffective leader. He depended

on his servant to make wise decisions. From this point Saul will act differently. He will become a strong leader. As this day came to an end Scripture tells us that God gave him “another heart.” (vs. 9) Now he is ready to lead a nation.

In the latter part of chapter ten we find that Samuel calls the people of Israel together in order to publically present Saul to them. He takes this opportunity to remind them of God’s leadership in the past. He also makes sure that they understand that they are rejecting God’s rule over them. *“And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.”* (vs. 19) Samuel then selects Saul from among the people. *“And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.”* (vs.24) It is

interesting that the Lord laid a burden on the heart of some people to follow Saul. (vs. 26) However, there was a certain faction of the people that rejected him as king and would not give him their allegiance. (vs. 27)

Samuel has done the will of God. It must have been difficult for him. He was a man of character and he obeyed God's direction. The people were running ahead of the plan of God and they would pay a heavy price. Samuel understood this and grieved for his people. He had faithfully led the people in a Godly manner for many years. God would continue to use him to guide this new king. Saul, however, would prove to be unstable and Samuel would be instrumental in Saul's last years as king and in the call David, the next king of Israel. This is when God's people transitioned from a theocracy to a monarchy. One lesson for us is that when we run ahead of the Lord we always suffer. Saul's legacy was one of oppression and loss. How much better they would have been had they waited on the Lord's timing.

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