

# SAUL THE ENIGMA 1 SAM. 9:25-27; 10:1-27

What do we find in this text?

## I. Saul chosen by God – privately!

**1 Samuel 9:25** And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house. **1 Samuel 9:26** And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad. **1 Samuel 9:27** And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.

**1 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?

**This small text has many repercussions:**

- **Samuel anointed Saul**
- **A king under a prophet = the Word of God**

**1 Samuel 10:25** Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, **and** wrote it in a book, **and** laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

**Exodus 24:7** And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

**Deuteronomy 31:26** Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.

**Joshua 24:26** And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

- **Captain (King, leader) over God's inheritance**

**1 Peter 5:1-4** The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords **over God's heritage**, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

- **Symbolic anointing with oil symbolizing God's:**

1. Saul separated to the task
2. Saul enabled for the task
3. Saul dependent in the task

- **Kiss of personal affirmation &/ affection**

**1 Samuel 16:1** And the LORD said unto Samuel, **How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?** fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

## II. Saul confirmed by subsequent events

**1 Samuel 10:2** When thou art departed from me to day, **then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah**; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

**1 Samuel 10:3** Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, **and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bethel**, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine: **1 Samuel 10:4** And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

**1 Samuel 10:5** **After that thou shalt come to the hill of God**, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, **that thou shalt meet 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: **1 Samuel 10:6** And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into **another man**.

**1 Samuel 10:7** And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, **that thou do as occasion serve thee**; for God is with thee.

**1 Samuel 10:8** And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do. **1 Samuel 10:9**

And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him **another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.**

**In some ways this is absolutely unique since this is a specific, God-given prophecy! But in another sense, God must confirm us also – pr** !

### **III. Saul questioned by ...many!**

**1 Samuel 10:6** And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into **another man.** **1 Samuel 10:9** And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him **another heart:** and all those signs came to pass that day. **1 Samuel 10:10** And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

**1 Samuel 10:11** And it came to pass, when **all that knew him beforetime** saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, **What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?** **1 Samuel 10:12** And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, **Is Saul also among the prophets?** **1 Samuel 10:27** But the children of Belial said, **How shall this man save us?** And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

**Saul was no “man after God’s own heart” – ever!**

**2 kinds of questions:**

**1. One questioned his relationship with God**

This seems to be a fair question – since they did know him beforehand.

**2. The other questioned his ability to lead → & therefore questioned God’s choice**

### **IV. Saul clouded by ... ambiguities!**

**Saul really never escapes this – who is he?**

**1 Samuel 10:14** And Saul’s uncle said unto him and to his servant, Whither went ye? And he said, To seek the asses: and when we saw that they were no where, we came to Samuel. **1 Samuel 10:15** And Saul’s uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you. **1 Samuel 10:16** And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. **But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.**

**1 Samuel 10:22** Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, **Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.**

**1 Samuel 10:23** And they ran and fetched him thence: **and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.**

### **V. Saul chosen by God – publically!**

**1 Samuel 10:17** And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh; **1 Samuel 10:18** And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you: **1 Samuel 10:19** 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.

**1 Samuel 10:20** And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken. **1 Samuel 10:21** When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found. **1 Samuel 10:22** Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff. **1 Samuel 10:23** And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. **1 Samuel 10:24** 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.**