

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

So tonight, we are going to see Saul become the first king of Israel.

Remember, that is what Israel wanted all along.

They wanted to be just like the other nations and have a tall handsome man that was going to govern them.

And last week, we saw God use a few lost donkeys to bring together Saul and Samuel.

Saul has no idea what's going on.

He just wants to find his donkeys and go home.

Up until this time, Saul doesn't know that God has chosen him to be king.

All Samuel has told him is that he is going to be of importance to his people.

So let's look at our text this evening.

[1Sa 10:1-16 NKJV] 1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured [it] on his head, and kissed him and said: "[Is it] not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?

The act of anointing individuals was not new to the Israelites.

Previously they had practiced the anointing of priests.

Exodus 30:23-33 and Leviticus 8:10-12.

However, Saul wasn't going to be a priest, he wasn't going to serve in the tabernacle; he was going to be king.

The act was a symbol that dedicated the individual to a special work God had called the person to do.

It indicated that God had chosen the individual for the work – in this case Saul was chosen by God to be king of His people.

I found it interesting that the Israelites were not the first people to anoint their king.

In fact, the neighboring nations around Israel anointed their kings as well – however, they did it differently- they did it with melted animal fat.

And the reason being – was that they believed that by pouring the melted fat of a bull or an ox unto the head of an individual, they hoped that the individual would be **infused with the strength and power of the bull or the ox.**

When God gave anointing to His people, it wasn't it wasn't from the fat of animals but from oil from the olive trees and it would be mixed with spices.

God's anointing wasn't to make men like animals – **it was to show that they were rooted and grounded in the things of God - in order to bring fruit to the glory of God.**

Now, this anointing is taking place in private. There are no spectators. It is only Samuel and Saul that are present.

The purpose of this ceremony is mainly for Saul's knowledge – remember, he still didn't know that he was chosen by king to be king, **until now.**

2 "When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?" ' **3 "Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men** going up to God at Bethel will meet you, **one carrying three young goats,** another carrying **three loaves of bread,** and another carrying **a skin** of wine. **4 "And they**

will greet you and give you two [loaves] of bread, which you shall receive from their hands. 5 "After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison [is]. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a **stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them**; and they will be prophesying. 6 "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and **you will prophesy** with them and be turned into another man. 7 "And let it be, when these signs come to you, [that] you do as the occasion demands; for God [is] with you.

So after Saul is anointed by Samuel, Samuel provides Saul with a prophetic word.

You will be first met by two men and they will tell you...that your donkeys have been found and your dad is worried about you.

Then you will be greeted by three men at a certain location and they will be carrying goats, bread and wine. And by the way they are going to give you some of the bread.

Then you will be greeted by a group of prophets and they will be carrying certain instruments.

The prophetic word is full of details. It is not vague.

And the reason for this is Saul needed confirmation.

This was a sign to Saul that Samuel's anointing of him was truly an act of God.

Church, when God calls us to do something – He always provides confirmation.

When my pastor asked my four years ago where God was leading me into ministry, I told him that the Lord had placed a burden in my heart for the people down here in the Nogales area. He didn't know I was going to say that – and his response was that the elders of the church had been praying for God to lift someone up to come down here for 10 years. Confirmation.

Months later – I get a message from Antonio's daughter that was visiting – that her dad was looking for a church that taught verse by verse. Confirmation.

God doesn't demand blind faith – He gives us confirmation so that we know that we are on the right path.

Our problems occur when He gives us confirmation over and over again and we choose not to be obedient to His will.

I asked you to make a note in verse six when Samuel tells Saul that he will be prophesying himself.

This is further confirmation to Saul that the Lord is indeed with him and would work through him.

However, it does not guarantee that Saul was always going to do God's will – and we will see in the next few chapters that Saul becomes disobedient to God's will.

8 "You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings [and] make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

This was an important command.

By the nature of their office, kings do not wait for anybody – others wait for them. But Samuel commanded Saul to wait for him, because the prophet of God had more real authority than this king over Israel.

You see, Saul had to show that even though he was a king he was submitted to the LORD and the LORD's prophet.

Keep this verse in mind because failing to wait on Samuel is going to get Saul into trouble.

9 So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.

So what does it mean here when it says here that God gave Saul another heart.

It doesn't mean that Saul has two hearts –

It means that God changed Saul that day through all the evidence that was provided to him.

And by evidence, I mean the confirmation of everything that happened – all the stuff that Samuel prophesied.

That is how God works on our hearts – through evidence.

However, it is still up to us to respond to the evidence.

We will always have free will.

10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. 11 And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people

said to one another, "What [is] this [that] has come upon the son of Kish? [Is] Saul also among the prophets?" 12 Then a man from there answered and said, "But who [is] their father?" Therefore it became a proverb: "[Is] Saul also among the prophets?" 13 And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place. 14 Then Saul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" So he said, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that [they were] nowhere [to be found], we went to Samuel." 15 And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you." 16 So Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found."

But about the matter of the kingdom, he did not tell him what Samuel had said.

So Saul and his servant return home and they are questioned by his uncle.

Saul proceeds to fill his uncle with the details of his adventure except he leaves out the portion where Samuel anoints him king.

Many people would have been shouting from their rooftops that they had been anointed king, but Saul did not mention it even when directly asked what had happened.

Saul was humble – I don't think he was embarrassed by it. I think he might have felt overwhelmed by it –

But we see this admirable characteristic of humility in Saul's earlier life. His downfall will occur when he loses this characteristics and he becomes proud.

[1Sa 10:17-27 NKJV] 17 Then Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah, 18 and said to the children of Israel, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians [and] from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.' 19 "But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, 'No, set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans." 20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, **the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.**

Here in these verses, we have something very similar to what we saw this past Sunday when Joshua started to weed out the tribes and family as Achan was singled out.

Here Samuel is doing the same thing because he is in the process of revealing to the children of Israel who God has selected as their new king.

21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD answered, "There he is, hidden among the equipment."

As Samuel is weeding out the tribes and families and calls out Saul – he is nowhere to be found.

He is hiding even though he knows that he is the one that is going to be proclaimed king in front of the people.

Again, we see Saul's humility.

He wasn't seeking the adoration and the praise of the people.

23 So they ran and brought him from there; and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. 24 And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen, that [there is] no one like him among all the people?" So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"

So the Israelites finally get the first look at their king.

And it was everything that they expected.

He was taller than everyone and he was handsome – that is what they wanted right???

They wanted the neighboring countries to envy them for their king.

25 Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, 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. 26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant [men] went with him, whose hearts God had touched. 27 But some rebels said, "How can this man save us?" So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

Two weeks ago in chapter eight when the people went to Samuel to demand a king, Samuel gives the people a warning of the way kings act.

That they will take away their children, that they will be taxed – because it takes many resources to run a kingdom, and Samuel also warns them that they are only there to be served and not to serve.

So after presenting Saul to them, he proceeds to write the warning in a book so that they will be reminded of the warning.

The chapter ends with Saul going back home – this time, he is surrounded by his men.

Those that liked him and those that did not respect Saul as king – however, we see Saul didn't make an issue of those that did not like him – again characteristics of his humility.

As king, he could have forced them to like him – that is what kings do.

However, Saul proceeded to do his work and ignored their slights.

Saul is going to let his work do the talking and soon enough everyone will recognize that he truly deserves to be king.

And we see an example of this in chapter 11.

[1Sa 11:1-15 NKJV] 1 Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with

us, and we will serve you." 2 And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, "On this [condition] I will make [a covenant] with you, that I may put out all your right eyes, and bring reproach on all Israel."

The Ammonites were descendants of whom???

Lot – remember he sleeps with his two daughters and they each have a son and they both become Israel's enemies. The Moabites were the other son's descendants.

So this dude Nahash has been tormenting the people of Jabesh.

He had been threatening them for some time and the people just wanted to make a treaty with him. They knew they couldn't defeat him so – let's make a deal.

However, Nahash wasn't going to be satisfied with the people of Jabesh serving him so he agreed to a treaty if they plucked their right eye out.

3 Then the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Hold off for seven days, that we may send messengers to all the territory of Israel. And then, if [there is] no one to save us, we will come out to you." 4 So the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and told the news in the hearing of the people. And all the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5 Now there was Saul, coming behind the herd from the field; and Saul said, "What [troubles] the people, that they weep?" And they told him the words of the men of Jabesh. 6 Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was

greatly aroused. 7 So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent [them] throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen." And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

So the people ask for seven days to make their decision whether or not they would form a treaty with Nahash and give up their right eye. In the mean time, the people go look for help – however, it appears that no one will help them until Saul hears what is going on.

And when he hears of the brutality of Nahash, he cuts up a yoke of oxen – and sends the pieces throughout Israel to

motivate them to come and fight the Ammonites and save their fellow Israelite.

Now, this is very similar to what we find in the book of Judges 19 – where a Levite after finding that his concubine was raped and killed at his doorsteps by the men of Gilead, he proceeds to cut her up in pieces and sends the pieces throughout Israel to let the people know how wicked the Benjamites were.

So Saul inspires the Israelites to come to the defense of Jabesh.

8 When he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. 9 And they said to the messengers who came, "Thus you shall say to the men

of Jabesh Gilead: 'Tomorrow, by [the time] the sun is hot, you shall have help.' " Then the messengers came and reported [it] to the men of Jabesh, and they were glad. 10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do with us whatever seems good to you." 11 So it was, on the next day, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and killed Ammonites until the heat of the day. And it happened that those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together. So Saul leads this united group into battle and they soundly defeated the Ammonites.

The victory was so decisive that those that were not killed were scattered throughout the region.

12 Then the people said to Samuel, "Who [is] he who said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death." 13 But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has accomplished salvation in Israel."

After their tremendous victory - in their zeal, some of the men wanted to kill those that were not loyal to King Saul. 1

Samuel 10:27

The men of Israel were so pleased with Saul now that they would kill anyone who doubted his leadership.

However, Saul puts a stop to it.

Note that Saul gives the God the credit for the victory – he still has his humility – despite having a victory under his belt.

14 Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there." 15 So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they made sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Saul had already been anointed king once – he had already been proclaimed king in front of the multitudes – Yet there was a sense among the people in which Saul was not king until virtually all the nation recognized him as king, and here that recognition was finally given.

This is Saul's finest moment – he won the battle, he remained humble and gave all the glory to God.

However, we will see Saul start to lose the battle with his own flesh.

May we remain humble before the Lord.

Let's pray...

