

I Samuel 9 & 10 Notes

Last week in chapters 7 and 8, we saw a transition taking place from judgeship to kingship in the nation of Israel. Up until this point, God had been their king and led the nation. Now, however, we see the people of Israel want a king from among the people, just like all of the neighboring nations. We saw in chapter 8 that God tells Samuel to give the people what they want. But it's not without a warning. The king would demand to be the people's sovereign and would exercise authority over every aspect of their lives. The king would set himself up in God's place. These next two chapters take us through the initiation and public endorsement of that king.

Verse 1

Who are we introduced to in this verse? _____

What is the first thing we learn about Kish? _____

We learn he is the son of, the son of, the son of, the son of, the son of

Kish's lengthy genealogy implies that this family is wealthy. Kish was a wealthy landowner who led in times of war.

What are we told at the end of verse 1? _____

This phrase in Hebrew implies much more. He was a mighty man of power. His long list of genealogy testifies to a family of importance among the tribe of Benjamin.

Verse 2

We are told about Kish's son. Who is it? _____

How is Saul described? _____

Verse 3-4

What are we told about Kish's donkeys? _____

Donkeys were an important animal at this time. They were used for all kinds of things like transportation, farming and hauling. Having several donkeys was a sign of wealth.

What does he instruct Saul to do? _____

We are told they cover the tribal territories of Benjamin and Ephraim but can't find the donkeys.

Verse 5-6

Saul suggest that they head back home so as not to concern his father.

What does the servant inform Saul about? _____

He describes him as a man of honor, everything he says comes true.

What does the servant suggest they might learn from this man?

We see something about these two men. They don't seem to have much spiritual character. They seem like men who wouldn't think to come to the prophet for spiritual guidance. They do however think - "Hey, maybe this guy can help us find the donkeys!"

Verse 7-10

What is Saul concerned about? _____

What does the servant have that they can offer? _____

It was common courtesy to bring a gift when consulting a prophet, but it's wrong to think that Samuel charged a fee of sorts for his "prophetic services". Samuel was a great prophet of God, not a fortune-teller.

The word 'seer' in verse 9 occurs for the first time. It literally signifies a person who sees, particularly supernatural sights. A seer and a prophet were the same in most cases.

We are told they went up to the city where the man of God was.

Do you think it's a coincidence that Samuel happens to be in the city the same day that Saul and his servant are looking for their lost donkeys?

Verse 11-13

Who do they encounter along the way? _____

They ask them if the seer is here. They find out that he is ahead of them.

What do they add about why the man has come into the city today?

They tell Saul that if they hurry they can find him before he goes up to the high place.

The high place was a hilltop where the people offered sacrifices. Canaanite-type high places are mentioned in the Old Testament and are shown in a disapproving way because they were used for idol worship. During this time however, when the ark was away from the Tabernacle, such "high places" were used by the Israelites and had the approval of God.

We learn that the people won't eat until he comes. Why? _____

Verse 14-17

As they go up, who do they see coming out toward them? Samuel

What do we find out in verse 15? _____

God gave the prophet Samuel specific guidance regarding future events. God says he is sending him a man from the land of Benjamin.

What is Samuel supposed to do? _____

The term used here for the king-designate is seen as the one officially chosen and appointed by God to rule His people Israel. This term emphasizes the importance of God's choosing and designating this new king. In this context, the term used for king emphasizes the limited nature of Saul's kingship.

What does the Lord say that Saul will do? _____

At the end of verse 16 we are told the Lord has considered His people because their outcry has come to Him.

What does the Lord say when Samuel sees Saul? _____

The Hebrew term translated 'rule' in this verse usually means restrain. This shows us that Saul would not rule as most kings did, but would restrain the people as God's vice-regent.

Verses 18-20

What does Saul say to Samuel? _____

Samuel replies that he is the seer.

It's interesting how unaware Saul is. He didn't even know who Samuel was, even though Samuel was Israel's leading judge and prophet.

Samuel tells Saul to go to the high place. Why? _____

Samuel says I will let you go - and tell you everything that is on your mind.

What does Samuel add about the donkeys? _____

Samuel shows that he is a true prophet from God. He showed Saul that he knew things that he could only have known supernaturally.

Samuel goes on to say that all that was desirable in Israel would soon come into his possession. Samuel's hinting at Saul's future here. All of Israel desired a king, and Saul would become the answer to that desire.

You have to wonder what Saul was thinking by now. Was he realizing this was no chance meeting and that his life was about to drastically change?.

Verses 21-22

What is Saul's response to Samuel's words?

Saul goes on to ask, Why have you spoken to me this way? Saul seems to give a genuinely humble response. Saul can't figure out why the prophet is saying that God wanted him to be king.

Where does Samuel seat Saul and his servant? _____

In this culture at this time, any dinner had a special seating protocol. The seat of honor was always on a particular side next to the host. It would have been a special honor to be seated next to the prophet Samuel.

How many men are at the table with them? _____

What does Samuel tell the cook to do? _____

Verses 24-25

What does Samuel say to Saul when the cook places the leg before him?

Again, in this culture, every meal had a special portion that would be given to the one the host wanted to honor. Some think that Samuel might have been using this time to see how Saul would react to being honored this way. Would he receive the honor humbly without making a big deal out of it, or would he show false humility or a proud heart? Often, the way someone reacts when honored shows what kind of person they really are.

What happened when they came down from the high place? _____

Verses 26-27

We are told they get up early the next day, so that Samuel may send Saul on his way.

Why does Samuel tell Saul to send his servant on ahead of them? So that Samuel could proclaim the word of God to Saul.

I Samuel 10 Notes

Verse 1

What four things does Samuel do in this verse?

Anointing with oil was a symbolic act in Israel. It pictured consecration to service. Before this anointing, the only things anointed with oil were the priests and the tabernacle. The oil symbolized God's Spirit. The anointing with it represented endowment with the Spirit for enablement. Saul would have understood by Samuel's actions, he was being set apart as God's vice-regent and endowing him with God's power to serve effectively.

Samuel's kiss was a sign of affection and respect. Saul was God's special representative on the earth.

We are going to see Samuel give Saul three events that would happen to confirm to him that Samuel was in the will of God when he anointed Saul. God did not want Saul to doubt his calling later, so he gave him a lot of confirmation.

1. Samuel tells Saul of a sign to confirm the anointing as king

Verse 2 -

What does Samuel tell Saul he will find when he leaves there that day?

What will these men tell Saul? _____

What about Saul's father? _____

2. Samuel tells Saul of another sign to confirm what God has done.

Verse 3-4

What is Saul going to find by the oak in Tabor? _____

What will they be carrying? _____

We are told they will greet Saul and he will accept two loaves of bread from them.

3. Samuel tells Saul of a third sign to confirm what God has done.

Verse 5 -

Who will Saul meet when he comes to the hill of God (thought to be Gibeah)?

They were apparently seeking the Lord and worshipping Him at the place of worship. When it says that they were prophesying, it doesn't necessarily mean that they were predicting the future, but rather they all spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

When we look at these three events, we see that the first one would have strengthened Saul's confidence in God's ability to control people under his authority. The second event would have helped Saul see that people would accept him and make sacrifices for him. The third event would have assured him that he indeed possessed supernatural enablement from God.

Warren Wiersbe believed that Saul should have learned the following lessons from these three signs: (1) God could solve his problems. (2) God could also supply his needs. (3) God could provide him with the power he needed for service.

Verse 6-7

Saul is told that the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon him.

What will the Spirit of the Lord allow him to do? _____

What will be the result? _____

The reception of the Holy Spirit was the real anointing. 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.

What does Samuel tell Saul to do when these signs come upon him?

Verses 8-9

Samuel tells Saul that he will go down ahead of him. What will Samuel do when he comes? _____

How long must Saul wait for Samuel to come? _____

This was an important command. Kings usually didn't wait for anyone. Others waited for them. Saul had to show that even though he was king, he was submitted to the Lord and the Lord's prophet. We are going to see later on how Saul's failure to wait for Samuel gets him into trouble.

What happened when Saul turned to leave Samuel? _____

Notice how the scripture is clear that God changed Saul's heart, not Samuel. In fact, it isn't until Saul turns his back to leave Samuel that this change occurs. Maybe God wanted to make sure Saul understood that he was to honor and respect Samuel, but to never look to him in place of the Lord.

We are told at the end of verse 9 that all the signs Samuel told Saul about came to pass that day.

Verse 10-13

The first two events have obviously already happened. This verse takes us through the third event where the Spirit of the Lord rushes on Saul and he starts to prophesy along with them.

How do the people react that previously knew Saul? _____

They ask, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

This phrase became a proverb describing astonishment that someone was now deeply religious. Saul was not a very spiritual man, but now became very spiritual when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

What does a man ask in verse 12? _____

This is inquiring about the source of the behavior of the prophets, including Saul.

Where does Saul go when he had finished prophesying? _____

Verses 14-16

What does Saul's uncle want to know when he found out that Saul went to see Samuel?

Saul explains how Samuel told them how the donkeys had been found. **What did Saul leave out?** _____

Why do you think Saul left out the biggest part of what had just happened to him?

It seems strange that Saul did not tell what he experienced. Perhaps Saul was 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 declared him king? Or perhaps Saul experienced what many do after a powerful encounter with the LORD: an attack from the enemy, making them fearful and cowardly to tell others what God did.

Verse 17-19

What does Samuel do? _____

Samuel has a message from the Lord to share with them.

God reminds them of all He has done for them, and how He reduced them from the hand of the Egyptians and from all those who were oppressing them.

What does God say they have done at the beginning of verse 18?

What do the people want? _____

What are they told to do at the end of verse 19? _____

Verses 20-21

After all the tribes are brought forward, what tribe is selected by lot? _____

Who is selected by lot from the tribe of Benjamin? _____

Who was selected by lot from this family? _____

We are told when they looked around he was nowhere to be found.

Verses 22-23

The people inquire of the Lord, wondering if the man is there yet.

What is the Lord's response? _____

The people go and drag him out. **How is Saul described?** _____

Why do you think Saul was hiding?

Verses 24-25

Samuel commends Saul to the people as the one the Lord has chosen.

How do they respond? _____

What does Samuel tell the people? _____

We are told he writes them in the book and places it before the Lord and then sends the people away.

The ordinances talked about here are most likely the directions about monarchical rule found in Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

Verses 26-27

Where does Saul go? _____

Who went with him? _____

God blesses Saul by inclining the hearts of valiant men in Israel to support him.

BUT is everyone excited about Saul's new position? _____

How did they feel? _____

What does Saul do about it? _____

Saul was a wise enough man not to demand acceptance by every individual in Israel. By every outward appearance Saul was very capable of serving as Israel's king. This is what the people wanted, a man similar to themselves to lead them, and that is exactly what God gave them. He gave them a man with great personal strengths: wisdom, humility, sensitivity, physical attractiveness, and wealth.