

October 22

Scriptures: Read 1 Samuel 9 & 10

Key Verse: “Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?”
(1 Samuel 10:1)

Overview

The providence and sovereign will of God is clearly evident in the whole situation surrounding the appointment of Saul as Israel's king. It was not by accident that his father's donkeys were lost and his search took him near the town where Samuel was performing his sacred duties. Nor was it by chance that Saul's servant knew Samuel was “a man of God” and “all that he says surely comes to pass” (9:6). It was also no coincidence that the servant had with him enough money for the customary offering that the prophet received for his guidance (9:8). One of the marks of a true prophet is that his words come to pass, and the other is that his words be in accord with the law of God (cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-3; 18:20-22). Samuel proved himself to be an honourable and true prophet of the Lord because, as we read in chapter 3:19, “the Lord... let none of his words fall to the ground.”

Since God had told Samuel to heed the voice of the people concerning their request for a king, he must have been seeking the Lord's will on the selection of that king. God had foretold him about His choice of Saul, and therefore Samuel was prepared for Saul's coming. At that time, in the language of the common people such as Saul, the prophet, or man of God, was called a seer, since it was often through dreams or visions that he received foreknowledge from God. Because of Samuel's foreknowledge, he treated Saul as the guest of honour at the sacrificial feast, giving him the specially selected and prepared priestly portion of the meat that had been set aside for him even before he arrived (9:24). Saul, a humble and simple Benjamite, must have been surprised by this unexpected special treatment (9:21).

Samuel accompanied Saul a short distance to see him off on his journey home. Then, in a private ceremony, he poured the anointing oil over Saul's head and revealed to him that he had been chosen by God to be “commander over His inheritance” (10:1). These words indicated that the human king was to be under the divine King and act as the steward over His kingdom. As with the anointing of the priests in times past (Exodus 28:41), this ritual indicated that he was set apart and consecrated for service to God and symbolized the Spirit of God upon him. The reason for this anointing and the change of heart that God gave Saul (10:9) was to prepare him and give him the strength, courage, and other qualities needed to be king and bring deliverance from their enemies.

Samuel gave Saul three signs to confirm that God had chosen him (10:2-7). Their fulfillment all on that same day, especially when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in prophecy (10:10), must have given Saul confidence that he had indeed been chosen by God to be the new king of Israel. Yet when the day of his appointment at Mizpah officially came and God had divinely directed the lot to come to Saul, this tall, handsome young man was shy and humbly hiding among the equipment (10:22). Before Saul was publicly proclaimed king,

however, Samuel reminded all the people that their deliverance from Egypt, and all other times of salvation, had come from God.

We stand in awe and marvel at the sovereign will of God who acts in the history of mankind to accomplish His divine plan and purpose. Saul had gone out to find the lost donkeys but instead found a kingdom.

Prayer

O Great Sovereign, rule in our lives to accomplish Your full purpose. We praise You for Your plan and for the miracles You use to accomplish it. Your will be done in earth as it is in Heaven. We ask this in the Name of Jesus, who followed Your plan perfectly. Amen.