

1 Samuel Chapter 10 Commentary

1Sa 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? 2 When thou art departed from me today, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulcher 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? 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: 4 And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands. 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: 6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man."

Samuel, having told him what he needed to know, now anoints Saul with a vial of oil upon his head. Remember, this is very private, only Saul and Samuel are present. The public anointing will come later. Samuel declares that Saul is anointed to be "**captain**" over Israel. Samuel tells Saul of several things that are going to happen that day, which will confirm to him that he is anointed for the position. He also tells him the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you and you shall prophesy, and you shall be changed into another man.

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

Samuel tells Saul: when all these things happen to you, you shall be free to do things a "**captain**" would do. He also tells him: go to Gilgal and wait for me seven days, at which time I will come to you and offer sacrifices and peace offering for you, then I will give you your final instructions.

God gives Saul another heart. One that is different in its nature to the one he had heretofore. His new heart is one that is for a "**captain**" over Israel, to fulfill the position that the people of Israel want filled.

God affirms all the words of Samuel that very day.

When we are born-again, by the Holy Spirit power of regeneration, we are given another heart, a new heart, which is "**Christ in you**."

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. **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? **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? **13** And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place."

Some commentators say: Saul prophesying with the prophets was a preparatory work, which would move Israel to accept him as king. For Saul; it was affirmation, that God had indeed appointed him to be captain over Israel.

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 nowhere, we came to Samuel. **15** And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you. **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."

We see that Saul is not ready to have it known that he is to be "**captain**" over Israel. I suspect that the new heart God gave him was filled with humility.

17 ¶ "And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh; 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: 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."

Samuel calls Israel together, again rebuking them for rejecting God as their king and ruler. Samuel tells them: we are going to cast lots to show you who your earthly king will be.

There is a great warning here for us. We should never desire an earthly king to be in the stead of our heavenly and earthly king, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of the New Testament Church.

20 "And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken. 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. 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. 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. 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."

Samuel, who already knows the outcome, goes through the process of casting lots to get the choice of who is to be king. This process is a means of getting the people to accept the man chosen. Israel is told; this is God's choice for you, since you have rejected God as king.

Again, we point out: Saul is taller than any other person so that he stands out. However, we are also warned that physical stature is not the way to choose leaders. Church pastor choosing should be from the united prayers of the church body, petitioning to God; that God would give them his choice of a pastor. Not as Israel has done, telling God: we want you to give us a man to take your place. Dear God, help us to be faithful to you in all things.

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. 26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched. 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."

Samuel gives Israel the "**manner of the kingdom**" and writes it down so Israel cannot forget. God has given us the manner of his kingdom, here on earth, the Church of Salvation by Grace. He has written it down for us in the King James bible, so we do not forget.

Samuel sends Israel home, and Saul also goes to his home. God touches the heart of some men to become followers of Saul. Other men, here called children of Belial, meaning the children of the devil, reject Saul as king. They do not give him any presents, as was usual to acknowledge the position of the king and seek his favor.

We take time here, to point out the phrase "**children of Belial**." Belial means *without profit, worthlessness, destruction, wickedness, evil, naughty, ungodly (men), wicked*. We noted that these were children of the devil. Some will say: but we are all God's children; to which I reply: we are not all God's children according to God himself, seen in:

- **Joh 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."** God tells us; there are people, who are of their father the devil. Wherefore, God tells us they are not God's children.
- **1Jo 3:10 "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."** Here we are given a means of identifying God's children, and the devil's children. This takes us right to the words of Jesus, about the great commandment, seen in: **Mt 22:36-40; 36 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and**

with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." If we do not exhibit that we love God, first and foremost, and that we love our neighbors with a godly love, we are to be identified as the children of our father the devil. Wherefore, we learn; do not try to make everybody be a child of God, only those who bear the fruitful attributes of godliness.

May we serve God with such faithfulness, that he would lead us by his Holy Spirit to lead godly lives that we would always identify us as "**children of God.**" This should be plainly seen, not only in the individual, but also in the individual church bodies, and the complete Church of Salvation by the Grace of God. Dear God! help us to bear the fruits that identify us as your children, we pray, in Jesus's name, Amen!

Finally, we remember; all this action is the result of Israel rejecting God, which God allows, and will use to bring his will and purpose to effect. God has already told Israel; because you have rejected me, again, I will give you a king, who will do terrible things to you, which will be God's judicial judgment upon you for rejecting me.

We are reminded: even though Saul will show forth the attributes of a man who is not truly faithful to God, Saul is the Lord's anointed, and he is a child of God. We understand that his is a child of God from the scripture seen in: **1Sa 28:19 Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.**" This verse also gives us the result of Israel desiring an earthly king in the place of God. They shall be delivered into the hands of the Philistines again.

Finally, We wish to point out that Saul, as king over Israel, is a prophetic picture of the church of God under the law. What do you mean? The law had to come first, just as Saul, who we are told was going to be a king that would do the same things that kings of the world do, had to come before King David, the man after God's own heart. The man who God chose, of his own free will, to rule and reign over his church.

This prophetic picture is seen in Israel, under the law ordinances, who had to labor under the sacrificial laws of God to live in his favor. However, with the coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Church of Salvation by Grace: Jesus, being the man after God's own heart, moved us from the labor of a man made king, Saul, unto the freedom of salvation by grace. Thank you, Lord Jesus!