

11. Anointed and proclaimed

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Last Thursday evening we learned that God chose Saul for the first king of Israel as the people of Israel demanded. The king, like Saul was not God's choice, but the people's. They were heading to the problem that was caused by their own choice.

This evening we are going to learn that Saul is going to be anointed and proclaimed as the king of Israel in the presence of the all Israelis. From these Scriptures, we are going to learn a few of God's principles in our lives.

A. A PRIVATE ANOINTING

1 Samuel 9:27-10:1 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God." 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?"

Please give your interpretation of this portion.

This was a literal anointing of Saul. Due to some questionable Christian TV programs, some Christians think anointing as sweaty evangelists trembling and shouting in the middle of their services. That is not necessarily true anointing. I would rather call it a freak show.

What happened to Saul's head and body was simply a picture of what God was doing with him spiritually. The Holy Spirit was being poured out on him, equipping him for the job of being a king over Israel.

1) It was a secret anointing:

Because it was not yet the time to reveal Saul as king to the nation. As Christians, our anointing often comes in just such a private way, not in a flashy, public ceremony.

2) It was a memorable and evident anointing:

Because Saul's head was drenched with oil. As Christians, our filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit should be memorable and evident.

3) It was a prophetic anointing:

Because just as Saul was anointed as king, so Jesus is anointed as the King of kings. Jesus is the Messiah – the same word as "Christ", which means Anointed One.

The anointing of a ruler was actually a religious act. That is why David had such high regard for Saul, referring to lift a hand against "Lord's anointed" that is mentioned in chapter 24.

Exodus 30:22-33 tells us about the special anointing oil. It was regarded as a sacred compound that could not be duplicated, nor should it be used as normal perfuming oil. Since oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, we see that the Holy Spirit is not poured out to enhance our flesh, but only to glorify Jesus. There is to be no place for encouraging a fleshly imitation for operations of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our charismatic denomination friends need to take a note of this, because the word "anointing" was abused amongst them in the wrong contexts.

Exodus 30:32 It shall not be poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.

It was a sign of Samuel's personal support of Saul. It was important that the first king of Israel had the support of the man of God.

B. THREE PROPHECIES AND ONE COMMAND

Let's draw 3 prophecies and 1 command from the following prophecies regarding Saul. The call of God for the individual requires these:

1) The First Prophecy – The Father's Care

1 Samuel 10:2 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?"'

The call of God starts at the love of the Father for the individual. This is not limited to anointing of a king. When our God calls you and anoint you through the Holy Spirit for a particular type of ministry for His glory, you already have the care and love of the Father.

2) The Second Prophecy – The Constant Communion with the Son

1 Samuel 10:3-4 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. And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands.

The call of God should be based on the constant communion, Koinonia, which is a close relationship with the Son Jesus Christ.

For your information, terebinth tree is normally known as oak or elm tree. And Bethel is 'the House of God' in Hebrew.

For a stranger to offer Saul two loaves of bread would have been a remarkable sign. Their bread would have been in use in the worship of God. For them, giving the bread to Saul substituted for a sacred act.

3) The Third Prophecy – The Anointing of the Holy Spirit

1 Samuel 10:5-7 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. Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.

The call of God is confirmed with the anointing of the Holy Spirit throughout the ministry.

If God is in the ministry of the individual, God will provide what the ministry needs and bring forth the power and diligence to get the job done. That does not mean that we do nothing. We work, but we work with the power of the Holy Spirit, not by our power.

Zechariah 4:6 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

"Be turned into another man" may mean spiritual regeneration or a marked advance in spiritual growth.

4) A Command for Saul – Hurry Up and Wait

1 Samuel 10:8 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."

By the nature of their office, kings do not wait for anybody. Others wait for them. But Samuel commands Saul to wait for him, because the prophet of God had more real authority than the people's king over Israel. Failing to wait for Samuel will get Saul into trouble on a future occasion.

C. THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED

1 Samuel 10:9-13 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. 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. 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?" Then a man from there answered and said, "But who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb: "Is Saul also among the prophets?" And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place.

What do you see here?

"God gave him another heart." This does not mean that Saul got a set of two hearts. In Hebrew this expression literally means, "God changed him for another heart."

D. ME, A KING?

1 Samuel 10:14-16 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." And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you." 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.

What kind of interpretations do you see here?

Some people think that Saul was humble to keep the anointing by Samuel and the fulfillment of the prophecies in his heart instead of bragging to everyone around him. Saul didn't go around passing his color 8 by 10 glossy autographed photos with a phrase, "I am your King and you're not."

When his uncle noticed Saul's sleek oily hair and asked him, "Que paso?" and Saul said, "Nada." I don't call being anointed as a king of the nation and being fulfilled all the prophecies regarding him exactly "Nada."

I see Saul as the one who is taking God's call fearful and awkward to tell others what God is about to do through him, since we don't see his intimate relationship

with God from the beginning. The same thing with us. We don't need to brag around about the call of God, but we don't need to hide it, unless we are told to keep it quiet.

E. PROCLAMATION OF THE KING OF ISRAEL

1 Samuel 10:17-24 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. 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." 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!"

Please give me your interpretation of this portion.

God is reminding Israel that He was still more than qualified to be their King, and their rejection of Him was all because of them, and not because of the Lord.

It is easy for us to think, "Wow, those Israelites were really stupid. How foolish to reject God like that!" But are we much different? Whenever we, even in the smallest way, are disobedient to the Lord, we are showing a rejection to Him.

The choice of Saul as Israel's first king was made by casting lots, a means of determining God's will in answer to yes-or-no questions. The lots were cast like dice. The principle underlying the use of lots was an active confidence in God's control of all events.

Since we see Samuel using Urim or Thummin that is like dice in the Bible, it does not mean that the Bible condones gambling or buying the lottery tickets. The Bible teaches clearly that we should work with our own hands.

Saul's hiding was the second sign of weakness in his character. I know that you might think, "Hey, wait a minute. This could be another sign of the man's humility." No, when God has called us to a task or ministry, hiding from that call of God is not a sign of humility, it is a sign of weakness and mistrust of Him.

F. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

1 Samuel 10:25-27 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. And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched. But some rebels said, "How can this man save us?" So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

What kind of interpretation are you getting from this paragraph?

As you can tell, so far I am not very favorable to Saul. But I must give this one to Saul. He heard about some rebels' comment regarding him. He did exactly what a godly person should do – ignoring it. Especially, when we get involved in ministries for the Lord and His people, we will hear some negative comments about us. The best thing we can do is ignore it and continue what we are called to do.

We ought to have the heart of deer to be kind to the people, and the skin of rhinoceros toward their negative comments. Let the Lord deal with them. He does a better job than we can possibly imagine.

G. APPLICATIONS

1) It is not for the image of ours, but for the glory of God.

Saul started out with so much promise. He was chosen and anointed by God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. He had the support of a man of God like Samuel. He had been given gifts appropriate to royalty. He had the enthusiastic support and goodwill of most in the nation. He had valiant men around him, men whose hearts God had touched to support him. And, he had the wisdom to not regard every doubter, or every critic, as an enemy. But despite this great start and all the advantages, Saul still blew it.

Just because we have a good start and God's blessings, it doesn't guarantee a good ending

2) It is by His Spirit, not by our quick scheme.

God picked us just as we were, even though we were not godly spiritual people. For the most of us, there is still a lot to be desired to be called Christians. Yet, God does not want to leave us just as we are. For God to use us to the fullest, we have to be turned into other men and women of God by the filling of the Spirit of God. Let's be available to Him.