

“1 Samuel 9 – 10

Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin. There was not a man in Israel more handsome than Saul; and he stood head and shoulders above everyone else.

Saul’s father had some donkeys that had strayed so he asked Saul to take along a servant and search for the lost donkeys. They had searched many towns and hillsides and when they couldn’t find the donkeys Saul wanted to give up and return home. But the servant said, “In the town ahead lives a prophet of God. Let us bring him our last shekel of silver and perhaps he can help us.”

As they entered the town, they saw Samuel approaching but didn’t know he was the prophet. The day before the Lord had revealed to Samuel that a man from the tribe of Benjamin would arrive and that Samuel was to anoint him to rule over Israel.

Saul approached Samuel and asked, “Can you tell me please where I might find the prophet?”

Samuel answered, “I am the prophet. Come with me to the shrine and tomorrow you will dine with me for I have many things to tell you. As for the lost donkeys, they have been found. Give them no thought for you have more important concerns. The future of Israel is in your hands.”

Saul replied, “But I am from the smallest of the tribes. And my family is the least of all the members of the tribe of Benjamin. Why have you spoken to me in this way?”

Samuel then took Saul and his servant to the banquet hall and gave Saul a seat of honor before all the other guests. He had the chef prepare a special meal for Saul. Samuel said, “This meal has been set aside, waiting for your arrival.” After the banquet, Saul went to Samuel’s home. A bed was prepared for him on the roof where it would be cool. At the break of day, the prophet said to Saul, tell your servant to go on ahead but you must stay a while, that I may make known to you the word of God.”

Once the servant left, Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on Saul’s head. He kissed him and said, The Lord has anointed you ruler over the people of Israel. You shall reign over them and save them from their enemies.” Samuel then told Saul all the places he would travel in the next few days and the people he would meet. Samuel said, “When all that I have told you happens, you will come to a

town where a band of prophets will come down from the shrine. They will be playing harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre. They will be in a prophetic frenzy. Then will the Spirit of the Lord possess you and you shall be a different person. I will offer burnt offerings and sacrifices of well-being. After that you will wait seven days, and I will come to you and show you what to do.” All these signs were fulfilled just as Samuel had prophesied.

The appointed day when Saul would be presented as the king of Israel arrived. Samuel summoned all the people. And when they had gathered, he said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms oppressing you. But you have rejected your God who saves you from calamities and distress, and you said, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourself before the Lord by your tribes and by your clans.”

When everyone was arranged, Samuel looked for Saul, but he couldn’t be found. Samuel inquired of the Lord, "Did the man come here?"

And the Lord said, “See he has hidden himself among the baggage.”

Then they ran and brought him from there. When Saul stood up, he towered over all the people. Samuel said for all to hear, “Do you see the one whom the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.”

And all the people shouted, “Long live the king.”

Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the king. He wrote all of this in a book and laid it up before the Lord. Then Samuel sent all the people back to their homes. Saul also went to his home, and with him went warriors whose hearts God had touched.