

I. Introduction and review: God works in mysterious ways.

II. Saul goes looking for donkeys and finds a kingdom. 9:1-27

- A. Introducing Saul -- the people's king. v. 1-2
 - 1. He is from an important family. v. 1 Ruth 2:1
 - 2. He is tall and handsome. v. 2 10:24 16:12 Gen. 39:6 II Sam. 14:25
- B. Saul's search for the lost donkeys leads him to Samuel. v. 3-14
- C. The LORD had revealed to Samuel that the future king was coming. v. 15-17
 - 1. This explains the sequence of events which brought Saul to Samuel -- God's sovereign providence. v. 15-16a Isa. 46:9-11 Eph. 1:11
 - 2. Samuel is instructed to anoint Saul as the *leader* of His people. v. 16b,17
 - 3. Saul will deliver Israel from the Philistines in answer to the cry of the cry of God's people. v. 16c Ex. 2:23 3:7,9 Judg. 3:9,15 4:3
 - 4. Is having a king good or bad? 8:7ff 9:16b
 - 5. God is merciful to us, giving us blessings we don't deserve.
- D. Samuel reveals God's plan for Saul. v. 18-27
 - 1. Samuel meets Saul (and makes an impression). v. 18-21 Judg. 6:15 Ex. 3:11 4:10
 - 2. Saul is the guest of honor at Samuel's banquet. v. 22-25 1:4-5 Ge. 43:34 Ex. 29:27 Samuel meets privately with Saul to explain what God is doing. v. 25-27
- E. God's providence continues to work in our lives. Ro. 8:28 I Co. 10:13 Lu. 12:6-7
 - 1. God is actively involved working out His purpose in every detail of life.
 - 2. We are usually not aware of God's providence as He is working it out.
 - 3. We still need God's revealed Word to fully understand what God is doing. 9:27

III. Saul is privately acknowledged as king. 10:1-17

- A. Samuel anoints Saul as ruler over Israel. 10:1
 - 1. What does anointing signify? 2:10 16:12-13 24:6,10 26:9,11,16,23 II Sa. 1:14
 - 2. What is the significance of the kiss? Ps. 2:12 II Ki. 14:33 15:5
 - 3. The LORD is still King over His people (inheritance). v. 1b Dt. 4:20 9:26 I Ki. 8:53
- B. Saul receives instruction from Samuel. 10:2-13
 - 1. Three things will happen to Saul which will further confirm that God has set him apart as king of Israel. v. 2-6
 - 2. Though he is king, Saul must still obey God's Word through Samuel. v. 7-8
 - 3. The signs are fulfilled exactly as Samuel said. v. 9
 - 4. What is the significance of the Spirit coming upon Saul and enabling him to prophesy? v. 6, 10-13 19:24 Num. 11:25
 - a. The Spirit is given not in regeneration and conversion, but in equipping Saul for the task of being king. v. 6b 16:14 18:12 Jdg. 14:6,19
 - b. Who are these prophets? 19:20 I Ki. 20:35 II Ki. 2:3,5,7,15 5:22 I Chr. 25:1ff
 - c. What is the nature of the prophesying in which Saul engaged? Dt. 18:15ff I Ki. 18:19 II Ki. 3:15
 - d. Prophesying reveals the change that has come upon Saul. v. 11-12 Nu. 11:25
- C. Saul returns home and says little. 10:14-16

IV. Saul is publicly chosen as king. 10:17-27

- A. Samuel calls the people together again at Mizpah. v. 17-19**
 - 1. His discourse begins like a prophetic declaration of judgment. Ex. 19:4-6 20:2
 - 2. In this case the judgment seems to be having Saul as their king. Hos. 13:11

- B. Saul is miraculously chosen by lot out of all Israel. 10:20-24**
 - 1. The lot reveals that Saul is the Lord's choice. Dt. 17:15 Pr. 16:33 18:18
 - 2. When else is a lot used? 14:28ff Ex. 28:28f Le. 16:8-10 Josh. 7:18ff 18:10 Acts 1:26
 - 3. Why does Saul hide? v. 22
 - 4. The people acclaim their new king. v. 24b I Ki. 1:25,31,34
 - 5. Should we make our big decisions by lot? I Tim. 3:1ff

- C. Samuel dismisses the people. v. 25-27**
 - 1. Samuel writes out the ordinances of the kingdom -- the king will be subject to God's law. v. 25,1b Deut. 17:14-20
 - 2. The people (including Saul) are sent home. v. 25b
 - 3. The reaction to King Saul is mixed. v. 26-27

- D. Application: Rulers are still under God's authority. Acts 5:29**
 - 1. Church leaders (shepherds) are under the Chief-Shepherd, Christ, who has purchased the church with His blood. Acts 20:28 I Pe. 5:4
 - 2. Government leaders are called to be God's servants, punishing evildoers and protecting those who do right. I Pe. 2:14 Romans 13:1-7 Pr. 8:15 31;8-9 Dan. 4
 - 3. Family authority is also under God. Eph. 5:22ff
 - 4. Saul serves as a warning to all who would lead (or enjoy success).

V. Concluding applications.

- A. God still works His extraordinary purposes through seemingly ordinary circumstances (providence).**
- B. God still calls and equips His ordinary people to do extraordinary things. I Cor. 12:7ff I Pe. 4:10-11**
- C. How does our text point to Christ?**
 - 1. He is the King chosen by God. 10:24 Isa. 42:1
 - 2. He is the Anointed One (Messiah/Christ). 10:1 Isa. 61:1 Luke 4:18
 - 3. He was empowered by the Holy Spirit. 10:6 Matt. 3:16
 - 4. In contrast to Saul, He is not outwardly attractive to men. 9:2 10:24 Isa. 53:1-3
 - 5. He was silent before His detractors and did not retaliate. 10:27 I Pe. 2:23 Is. 53:7
 - 6. His kingship was concealed for a season. 10:16 Luke 18:34
 - 7. He alone is incomparable. 10:24 Song of Solomon 5:10
 - 8. Some embrace God's Anointed One while others reject Him. 10:26-27 John 1:11f
 - 9. Behold your King has come! 10:24 Mt. 6:33 Ps. 2:12
 - 10. He gives the Spirit to us and makes us new people.

Discussion questions

- 1. What is providence? How is providence seen in our text?
How have you seen providence at work in your life?
How can you interpret events which seem to be providential?
- 2. How are Israel's kings to differ from the kings of the nations?
- 3. What applications can leaders (church, family, government) derive from this passage?
- 4. Was the king a blessing from God or a judgment or both? Explain your answer.
- 5. How does this passage point to Christ?