

## 1 Samuel (Sh'mu'el Alef)

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### Chapter 10

**1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it upon his head and kissed him<sup>1</sup> and said, Is it not because the LORD has 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 sepulchre<sup>2</sup> in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah (Tzeltzah),<sup>3</sup> and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou didst go to seek are found, and thy father has left the care of the asses and sorrows for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?<sup>4</sup>**

**3 Then shalt thou go on forward from there, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor (Tavor),<sup>5</sup> and three men going up to God to Bethel shall meet thee, one carrying three kids<sup>6</sup> 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;<sup>7</sup> which thou shalt receive of their hands.<sup>8</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Samuel was willing to serve the new king with prayers and hearty counsel.

<sup>2</sup> The first sign begins with a reminder to Saul that, though he will be king, he is but a mortal man. He will answer to the King of kings for how he conducts himself.

#### <sup>3</sup> H6766

צלצח

tseltsach  
tsel-tsakh'

From H6738 and H6703; **clear shade**; Tseltsach, a place in Israel. - Zelzah.

<sup>4</sup> Sometimes the calling of God is distressing to parents. Kish did not know that Samuel had detained Saul. We have to trust God with our children, and that could save us a lot of worry.

#### <sup>5</sup> H8396

תבור

ta<sup>ˆ</sup>bo<sup>ˆ</sup>r  
taw-bore'

From a root corresponding to H8406; **broken region**; Tabor, a mountain in Israel, also a city adjacent: - Tabor.

<sup>6</sup> That must have been quite a load, but he probably carried the goats in a basket. This must have been his contribution to the offering that they were going to make to the Lord at Beth-el. It would be interesting to know more about these three men, and their reasons for going to Beth-el.

Wesley says: Plain - Not that at the foot of mount Tabor, which was far from these parts; but another belonging to some other place. Bethel - Properly so called, which was in Ephraim, where there was a noted high - place, famous for Jacob's vision there, Gen\_28:19, where it is probable they offered sacrifices, in this confused state of things, when the ark was in one place, and the tabernacle in another.

<sup>7</sup> Whoever the three men were, they could hear God's instructions to give Saul the two loaves of bread.

**5 After that thou shalt come to the hill of God<sup>9</sup> where the garrison of the Philistines is, and it shall come to pass when thou art come there to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery and a tambourine and a pipe and a harp before them;<sup>10</sup> and they shall prophesy.<sup>11</sup>**

**6 And the Spirit of the LORD will prosper thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them and shalt be turned into another man.<sup>12</sup>**

**7 And let it be when these signs are come unto thee<sup>13</sup> that thou do according as thou shalt find at hand,<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> Seven days shalt thou tarry<sup>16</sup> until I come to thee and show thee what thou shalt do.<sup>17</sup>**

**9 ¶ And it was so that when he had turned his shoulder to go from Samuel,<sup>18</sup> God gave him another heart, and all those signs came to pass that day.**

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<sup>8</sup> Saul is given permission to receive the gift.

<sup>9</sup> This was Gibeah. A school of the prophets was located here. Saul murdered the native Gibeonites with whom Israel had entered into covenant with. His offspring paid for this later.

<sup>10</sup> Go to this webpage for a good explanation about the types of musical instruments used by the ancient Israelites: <http://www.bibarch.com/music/music-ancient-instruments.htm>

<sup>11</sup> Close links between music and prophecy. One can prophesy with an instrument through yielding to the Holy Spirit, and bring forth an echo of a sound of Heaven. It won't sound as good on Earth as it does in Heaven, but it will contain the power of God to move on people's hearts, and even to produce miracles. These musicians, however, probably also prophesied through their singing, or speaking forth, accompanied by music.

<sup>12</sup> Saul was instantly given spiritual abilities, instead of needing to be trained in them. He was given a new heart, which probably means that he now had understanding about spiritual matters like never before, as this would be needed of a king of Israel, but events showed that Saul ignored what he knew to be right when he became impatient in his flesh.

<sup>13</sup> The signs were clear confirmations that God had chosen him to be king of Israel. It is really sad how Saul ended up, when we think of how he started out.

<sup>14</sup> Saul will take advantage of opportunities to establish his office and promote his nation, having confidence like never before, and God will bless what he does in His service.

<sup>15</sup> Samuel made it clear that the spiritual duties were to remain the office of the priest, not to be intruded on by the king.

<sup>16</sup> Samuel commanded him to wait for seven days for him, as the representative that God had selected for this occasion. Kings are to be subject to God and wait on Him for His timing.

<sup>17</sup> Kings are supposed to receive counsel and guidance from God's chosen representatives.

<sup>18</sup> God backed up Samuel's words instantly. God backs up His prophets, to confirm to leaders that they are His representatives. Saul knew something wonderful had come into him, as soon as he turned to leave Samuel.

10 And when they came there to the hill, behold, the company of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God prospered 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 has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?<sup>19</sup>

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 he ceased prophesying and came to the high place.

14 And Saul's uncle<sup>20</sup> said unto him and to his servant, Where 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, of which Samuel spoke, he did not tell him.

17 ¶ And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh

18 and said unto the sons of Israel, Thus hath the LORD God of Israel said, 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 those that oppressed you.

19 But ye have this day rejected your God, who saves you out of all your afflictions and your troubles, and ye have said unto him, No, but set a king over us. Now, therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands.

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 lineages, the family of Matri<sup>21</sup> was taken, and from it 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 there. And the LORD answered, Behold, he has hid himself among the stuff.

23 And they ran and took him from there, 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 has chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted and said, Long live the king.

25 Then Samuel recited unto the people the rights of the kingdom and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his house.

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<sup>19</sup> Prior to this, Saul probably did not demonstrate a special interest in spiritual things.

<sup>20</sup> This was probably Ner, Abner's father. Saul probably went to see his favourite cousin, and his uncle questioned him, but did not confide even to Abner what Samuel had said to him in private. Obviously, because he had spoken to Saul in private, Samuel did not want him to tell others, yet, what he had said. There was also probably a concern about notoriety. Samuel didn't want Saul to have to face flak too soon, either doubt from his closest friends, or envy and scorn from enemies, or friends jumping the gun in their enthusiasm to support him, possibly with ulterior motives to win promotions. It was to Saul's advantage to quietly think about what Samuel had told him.

<sup>21</sup> **H4309**

מַטְרִי

mat. rîy

mat-ree'

From H4305; rainy; Matri, an Israelite: - Matri. (This was a name that probably implied blessing.)

**26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah (Giv'ah), and there went with him some from the army, whose hearts God had touched.**

**27 But the sons of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him and brought him no presents.<sup>22</sup> But he pretended not to notice.<sup>23</sup>**

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<sup>22</sup> When God is doing something new, the doubters who refuse to support it and speak against it are counted as belonging to satan. Christians should walk closely enough to God that they are able to discern His Spirit in a new move, and get on board with it. If they have doubts, they should, at least, be quiet and not do anything to hinder it.

<sup>23</sup> Saul is shrewd to notice what is going on, and take note of who his enemies are, while remaining silent until he has consolidated his kingdom and has the power to do something about them.