

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
LESSON 6
KING SAUL'S HOPEFUL BEGINNING
1 SAMUEL 9-11
WEEK OF OCTOBER 18 – OCTOBER 23**

Chapters 9 through 11 are the historical account of God's provision of the first king of Israel, a king they demanded. Although God's people rejected His rule in favor of a human king like all nations, God will use the imperfections of all human kings to point to man's need of a perfect benevolent King. In this section, we see God's sovereign hand accomplishing His purposes even through man's sin.

As you study this passage, thank the Lord for His sovereign work in your life and respond with thanks and obedience to His Word.

Read 1 Samuel 9:1- 10:1 Selection and Private Anointing of King Saul

1. From **9:1-2**, how is Saul described and what does that tell of his qualification as a leader? How does that description match the desire of the Israelites to have a *"king to be like all the nations"*?
2. How does the very detailed account of the donkey hunt in **9:3-14** demonstrate God's providential activity in the common events of life?
3. How does **9:15-17** reveal God's plan and work in what otherwise seems to be a random account of two guys hunting for lost donkeys?

"Does Yahweh direct only major episodes in His Kingdom or does His sway extend to the individual lives of His subjects? Surely the latter..... Yahweh's strange and baffling providence is not the exclusive privilege of some Kingdom elite; it extends to each of His people no matter how apparently common. However, unlike **1 Samuel 9**, He may not let you in on the secret. You may see traces of what He has been doing much later as you look back, but in the present we may be just as much in the dark as Saul was. If so, you must simply go on looking for the lost asses-or whatever task God has given you to do. 1 Samuel, Dale Ralph Davis, pg.95

Read 1 Samuel 10:2-27 Revelation of God's Choice By Signs and Public Selection By Lot

4. After Samuel privately anoints Saul in **10:1**, what events and signs did Samuel give to Saul in **10:2-16** to confirm Saul was God's choice for king?

"How did the Holy Spirit minister before Pentecost? The ministry of the Holy Spirit in **1 Sam 10: 6, 10:10; 11:6...** was not describing salvation in the (New Testament) sense, but an empowering by the Lord for His service. MacArthur Study Bible, 1 Samuel Introduction.

"The *"rushing"* of the spirit indicates His equipping for the tasks of leadership. In this sense Saul is another man, receiving what he had not had before." 1 Samuel, Dale Ralph Davis, pg.98

5. Before the public confirmation of Saul takes place in **10:20-24**, how did Samuel seek again in **10:17-19** to stir Israel to acknowledge their rejection of Yahweh as king? What does that tell us of God's relentless pursuit of His redeemed ones to truly repent and seek Him?
6. In **10:21-22**, how does God further confirm Saul is His choice for king?
7. In **10:25**, Samuel spoke and wrote the "*legal judgments of the kingdom*" which refers to God's instruction for the conduct of a king. Read **Deut. 17:14-20** and write those judgments. (We will return to this standard later in our study)

Read 1 Samuel 11 God Empowers Saul to Deliver His People; Israel Crowns Their King

8. When Nahash besieged Jabesh-Gilead in **11:1-4**, what was his goal?
9. How did God empower and use Saul to crush the Ammonite terrorists as described in **11:6-11**?
10. How did Saul acknowledge God's provision when the people wanted to execute the "*not my king*" rebels?
11. In **11:14-15**, What did Samuel instruct and what did the people do? How does this section conclude in **verse 15**?

As **Chapter 11** concludes, the first king of Israel is crowned, and all Israel is exceedingly glad. However, the test of the obedience of this king is about to begin. God will use Saul and all the kings who follow to cause all His redeemed ones to long for that perfect king, the Son of David, Jesus Christ, who will reign and rule with perfect justice and provide perfect peace and security forever!

Concluding applications:

How have you seen God providentially working in the circumstances in your life?

How are you trusting in His sovereign work in your daily affairs?

How does His sovereign control over all of life provide you comfort, joy and peace that passes all comprehension?