

Exegetical Notes – 1 Samuel 10:1-8

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-1375
charleshjensen@aol.com

1 Samuel 10:1-8

(Samuel was Israel's Judge for 20 years. During his reign as judge, Israel prospered and lived in peace. The end of Samuel's time as Israel's leader has come. Monarchy, as opposed to Theocracy, is the normal form of government for nations during this time. Israel is the only theocracy. The people of Israel desire to be "Woke," they want to be like all the other people of the world. Though Samuel opposed the idea on Monarchy, God told him to warn the people of the costs of having a human king, but He told Samuel to grant their request. God revealed to Samuel that Saul, the son of Kish, would be Israel's first human king.)

Verses 1-2

¹ Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance?" ² When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, 'The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, "What shall I do about my son?"'

- Samuel and Saul spent the night talking privately. The subject of that conversation is not recorded for us. But as dawn came, Samuel told Saul to prepare to go home. As Saul was about to leave Ramah, Samuel who accompanied him to the edge of town, told Saul to send his servant away because he had a message from God for Saul (see 1 Samuel 9:25-27).
- When they were alone, Saul took a flask of oil and anointed Saul with it. He kissed Saul telling Saul that YHWH had appointed him to rule Israel. He then gave Saul three signs which would confirm God's anointing of him as king. First, Saul would meet two men near Rachel's tomb at Zelzah on the border of the territory which belonged to the tribe of Benjamin. These men would tell Saul that his father's donkeys had been found. Notice that the first sign is very specific in its details. When this event happens, there will be no confusion. It will be perfectly clear.

Verses 3-4

³ “Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to worship God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine. ⁴ They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.

- The second sign is as specific as the first. At the great tree of Tabor, Saul would run into three men who were on their way to worship God at the Tabernacle in Bethel. One of these men would have three goats with him. Another would have three loaves of bread. The third would have a skin of wine. When they met Saul, they would give him two loaves of bread.
- Saul was to accept the loaves of bread from these strangers and go on his way.

Verses 5-7

⁵ “After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. ⁶ The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. ⁷ Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

- Next, at Gibeah of God, a town which was controlled by Israel’s enemies, as he approached the town, Saul would encounter a group of prophets coming down from a place of worship. They would be praising God in song and proclaiming His word. This is an unlikely group for Saul to meet in this place.
- When Saul encountered this group, The Holy Spirit would come upon him in power. He would join the prophets and declare the word of the Lord with/to them. As a result of the Holy Spirit coming upon Saul, he would be different than he had previously been. In Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit visited people. The Holy Spirit did not “abide” with people then as he does Christians today. For the time the Holy Spirit was upon them, these people were different. But when the Holy Spirit departed, they reverted to what they had been before the Holy Spirit came upon them. Saul would be changed when the Spirit of God came upon him. How Saul was changed is

not spelled out. However, he had never spoken as a prophet before. This change in him would be proof to him that God was calling him to be Israel's first human king.

- After Saul received the three-confirming signs, he was to return home and be Saul. He was to do nothing differently. He was to wait.

Verse 8

⁸ "Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do."

- In one week, seven days, Saul was to meet Samuel at Gilgal. There, he would receive more direction from Samuel as to what he should do. For seven days, Saul was to wait on the LORD.

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