

God's Purposes

1 Samuel 10

Introduction:

A Divine Purpose - 1 Samuel 9:27 - 10:16 - It is important that we see the significance of verses 5-7.

Spirit of God - Saul was literally transformed from a rancher to a warrior and that came by the Holy Spirit of God—he became a new man with a new heart.

Ancient Leadership - Israel had a formal king later than the nations around it. Nevertheless, they had leadership at a local level. When the Israelites asked for a king God was not giving them what the nations around them had, God was setting up a vice-regent to carry out his responsibilities and fulfill God's intended purpose.

Summary: All leadership has a divine purpose as Saul had a divine purpose but his leadership is compromised because of his willfulness.

Stay on purpose and God will use you in His way and part of that is preparing things for those who follow.

Announcing a King - 1 Samuel 10:17-27 - In the ancient world leaders came to power under three general circumstances: first, they were identified by the divine; second, a demonstration by the new leader that gains public attention and results in growing support; third, a public confirmation of the new leader.

Summary: We will learn as Israel's history takes center stage in the historical books that the prophet has a leading role in the Kingdom of Israel; he speaks for God and the political leadership is challenged to listen and adjust their priorities.

Conclusion: God's purposes define the situation that existed in this story and they define the situation that we find ourselves in our 21st century historical times. God is working in the lives of his children and the Bible provides us with a sketch of what that program looks like right up the end of the age.

The language of this portion of Scripture indicates that Saul may be an earthly king of an earthly kingdom and that is what the people were looking for; but God is the King of the nations and he is looking for servants who will follow his lead and care for his inheritance as part of an eternal kingdom. God's purposes are greater than any moment in history; we are his servants, he is the King; follow the King.

The Torah required that the Levites provide the new king "a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests" (Deuteronomy 17:18). God was setting the stage for Saul's success, because, when God identifies our purpose he also gives us the resources to carry it out.