**Lesson 11**

**Chapter 10:9-27.
Saul is anointed King by Samuel**

**1 Samuel 10:9-27 (NASB)**
*9  Then it happened when he turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day.
10  When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them.
11  It came about, when all who knew him previously saw that he prophesied now with the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"
12  A man there said, "Now, who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"
13  When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.*

After **Saul** left **Samuel,** the promised **signs** came to pass. So amazed were the witnesses to Saul's dramatic and powerful change of character that they created a proverb which thereafter was quoted to describe a totally unexpected and unexplainable phenomenon: **Is Saul also among the prophets?** This does not suggest, of course, that Saul became part of the prophetic ministry led by Samuel, but only that he was able to exercise a prophetic gift, at least on this occasion, though never having received prophetic training. This was a remarkable and convincing sign of God's presence and power in Saul's life.

But not for all of his life

Further evidence that Saul did not actually become a prophet lies in the stem of the Hebrew verb here. **He joined in their prophesying** means literally, "He acted like a prophet among them," that is, to all outward appearances he was a prophet because he was able to enter into their activities.

*14  Now Saul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they could not be found, we went to Samuel."
15  Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you."
16  So Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But he did not tell him about the matter of the kingdom which Samuel had mentioned.*

**Saul** told **his uncle** about finding **the donkeys** with Samuel's help, **but** Saul **said** nothing **about the kingship.**

*17  Thereafter Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah;
18  and he said to the sons of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought Israel up from Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the power of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.'
19  "But you have today rejected your God, who delivers you from all your calamities and your distresses; yet you have said, 'No, but set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans."
20  Thus Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot.
21  Then he brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its families, and the Matrite family was taken. And Saul the son of Kish was taken; but when they looked for him, he could not be found.
22  Therefore they inquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" So the LORD said, "Behold, he is hiding himself by the baggage."
23  So they ran and took him from there, and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward.
24  Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? Surely there is no one like him among all the people." So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"
25  Then Samuel told the people the ordinances of the kingdom, and wrote them in the book and placed it before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his house.
26  Saul also went to his house at Gibeah; and the valiant men whose hearts God had touched went with him.
27  But certain worthless men said, "How can this one deliver us?" And they despised him and did not bring him any present. But he kept silent.*

Was his humility showing or something else?

HE looked the part

Sometime later **Samuel** gathered the leaders **of Israel** together **at Mizpah,** a favorite place for assembly in Samuel's day (cf. [7:5-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+7%3A5-6)). After reminding them of their foolish insistence on having **a king** apart from the directive will of **God,** he set about to demonstrate God's selection of Saul by a process of elimination ([10:18-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A18-19)). By lot or some similar means the choice was made of **tribe,** that **of Benjamin... clan,** that of Matri; and family, that **of Kish** ([vv. 20-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A20-21)). But when **Saul** was **chosen,** he was nowhere **to be found.** Indicative of his unassuming humility were his initial attempts to avoid the glare of publicity ([v. 22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A22)) and his refusal to be vindictive against those who ridiculed his selection as king ([v. 27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A27)). But the masses were convinced of his eminent suitability for the high office and in jubilation cried out, **Long live the king!**

However, in the eyes of the Lord, Saul was disqualified. The prophetic word of Jacob was that the scepter (of kingship) would not depart from Judah ([Gen. 49:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+49%3A10)). The promised dynasty of kings which would eventually produce the Messiah must originate in Judah. Saul as a Benjamite could not, then, meet the basic prerequisite of lineage. Nonetheless the people had made their demand, and **the Lord** had acquiesced. All that **Samuel** could do was invest Saul with his authority and responsibility as outlined in **a scroll** prepared for this occasion of coronation ([1 Sam. 10:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A25)). Undoubtedly the scroll included the Mosaic regulations for kingship found in [Deuteronomy 17:14-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+17%3A14-17). Interestingly **valiant men** were immediately attracted to Saul **in Gibeah** (see [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00009941#links786) on [1 Sam. 9:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+9%3A1)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Open it**

1. When was the first time you wished you could "crawl into a hole" rather than make an appearance or presentation in public?
 **Trying to talk to class in grade school after being defeated for class president.**

2. In what circumstances might you tend to tell the truth but not necessarily the whole truth?
 **Talking with someone about their loved one, trying not to hurt feelings**

**Explore it**

3. What event, prophesied by Samuel, surprised the people who had known Saul before? ([10:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A11))
 **That he was prophesying**

4. How did Saul respond to his uncle’s questioning about his travels and his interactions with the prophet? ([10:14-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A14-16))
 **By not telling the entire truth**

5. How did God characterize Himself in the words He spoke through Samuel? ([10:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A18))
 **As their savior from slavery**

6. By what action did Samuel say that Israel had "rejected your God"? ([10:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A19))
 **When they wanted a king and not God**

7. What was the methodology used by Samuel to discern and appoint God’s choice for king? ([10:20-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A20-22))
 **By lot**

8. What did the people notice about Saul when they brought him out of his hiding place? ([10:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A23))
 **He was taller and more handsome than everyone else**

10. What was the significance of writing down the rules of the kingship and depositing them before the Lord? ([10:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A25))
 **It was a legal document intended to bind both king and people and prevent abuses**

11. When Saul returned home to Gibeah, who accompanied him? ([10:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A26))
 **The valiant men whose hearts God had touched**

12. What was Saul’s response to his critics among the Israelites? ([10:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+10%3A27))
 **He remained silent to their words**

**Get it**

13. What might have motivated Saul to keep the prophecy and anointing for the kingship from his uncle?
 **The actions of the sons**

14. What "leadership qualities" did Saul have?
 **He was chosen by lot and through that means by God**

15. To what extent is it a problem that "image" matters so much in politics?
 **If it looks like something it must be that, rich looking, powerful, must be good**

**Apply it**

16. How could you pray for courage the next time you are tempted to decline a call of God?
 **Be honest with him**

17. In what current situation might it be effective to maintain silence in the face of your critics?
 **The arrows that are being slung at me by Satan**