

## A Reluctant King & A Steadfast Sovereign 1 Samuel 10

### INTRODUCTION

If you have a Bible, turn with me to 1 Samuel 10. What begins in chapter 8 with a request for a king culminates in chapter 10 with Saul's anointing as king. Don't forget...

**The story told in chapters 9 and 10 is an important story for the original readers of Samuel because the story confirms that Saul was in fact \_\_\_\_\_ by God to be Israel's first king.**

Knowing the whole story about Saul, it might be easy for future generations to dismiss him as some kind of historical hiccup.

- **God chose to work this way to show the original readers then and all of us this morning that He is not only the God of supernatural intervention every now and then; more importantly, He is the God of \_\_\_\_\_, always and in all things.**

We've seen that Israel's demand for a king was driven by as desire to be like other nations. They wanted to be just like all the other nations. And in a twist we may not expect, God grants their demand, even though it comes from a sinful heart. And the tension of that text in chapter 8 begins now in chapter 10 to unfold. Through His anointing of Saul, God is beginning to grant the sinful request of His people for a king. Why would he do that? I think our text provides some clues.

Ultimately, today our aim is to begin to answer some of the "why" questions of God's sovereign choices. In 1 Samuel 10, God chooses Saul to be His king. **In our lives, God chooses all sorts of things to act as our "rulers" or "kings"—situations and circumstances and individuals that control us and exercise authority over us.**

I. How does God \_\_\_\_\_ kings to rule over us?

A. He sets \_\_\_\_\_ (10:1)

B. He \_\_\_\_\_ (10:2-8)

**Each of the signs will meet a need: His anxiety about the donkeys will be laid to rest yet again, his need for food will be met and his need of ability to do the job just given him will be met.**

C. He \_\_\_\_\_ (10:9-10)

D. He \_\_\_\_\_ (10:11-16)

E. He \_\_\_\_\_ (10:17-19)

F. He \_\_\_\_\_ (10:20-21)

G. He \_\_\_\_\_ (10:22-24)

H. He \_\_\_\_\_ (10:25-27)

Here is how God works to establish His king. He sets apart, He confirms, He equips, He reminds, He chooses, He finds, and He orders. **And this is still how God is working in the lives of His people. He is setting apart times and places and people, He is confirming their usefulness to Him, He is equipping them for His work, He is reminding us of our need for His presence, He is choosing what seems random for purpose, He is finding us out even when we hide, and He is ordering His world in a way which points us to His work. God is using every single moment of our life to work His wise and purposeful sovereignty...His providence.**

## CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? Let's be honest...at times, the Lord's providence feels more cruel than kind. Sometimes instead of David, we get Saul. Sometimes God gives us what we ask, even when it's sinful rebellion. When that happens, it's hard to stop at the "how" of God's providence. When His work feels more cruel than kind, we have to ask "why"? And truthfully, I think this text asks "why?"

II. Why does God choose \_\_\_\_\_ kings to rule over us?

- To rearrange our \_\_\_\_\_

- To lead us to \_\_\_\_\_

- To point us to \_\_\_\_\_