

*“Signs of the Promise”*  
*1 Samuel 10:1-16*

INTRO:

We continue in our survey of **1 Samuel**. Remember Israel wanted a king. God’s timing was not for a king to be crowned at this moment in Israel’s history. The LORD underlined this point again in our chapter (**vs.18-19**). Still, God provides for them the very king they wanted. First, He prepared Saul to understand that God had chosen Him to be king. He did this by providing three clear undeniable signs to show he was God’s choice. Then, in **verses 17-27**, God showed the nation He had chosen Saul. When the lot was falling upon Saul as the chosen one, Saul was busy hiding himself among the baggage. Saul did not want the job.

Is there anything that we can learn from this historical account? There are two truths we need to grasp from this which can help us in our walk with our Lord. First, we learn about signs and prophecy and second, how our living God works today.

- I. Confirmation for a Questioning King-Elect*
- II. Our LORD Often Moves in Ways We Cannot See*

*I. Confirmation for a Questioning King-Elect*

A. As Samuel led Saul and his servant to the edge of town after the sacrifice and feast the day before, something very interesting happened. **(1 Samuel 9:27–10:1)**

*“As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, ‘Tell the servant to go on ahead of us.’ And he went on. ‘But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God.’ Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: ‘Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?’”*

B. It is now plain to Saul what the LORD intended for him. Still, we can understand how Saul might find this news very hard to accept. So, Samuel does something incredible for Saul. He gives him signs to show that this indeed will happen as God has said. Here is a phenomena in the Bible that we need to understand. Do you remember the famous verse from Isaiah that we often quote at Christmas time? **(Isaiah 7:14)**

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*

Actually this prophecy is a sign of a bigger prophecy. The LORD’s prophet would make a promise and then give signs, prophecies which would happen close in time to assure them the bigger prophecy would happen as promised.

C. Samuel gave Saul a series of three signs. Without question all three were fulfilled, but the writer chooses to focus on the last one to flesh out the details. **(1 Samuel 10:10–12)**

***“When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, ‘What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?’ Then a man from there answered and said, ‘But who is their father?’ Therefore it became a proverb: ‘Is Saul also among the prophets?’”***

D. Saul joining the prophets was out of character for Him. This was so shocking to those who knew Saul beforehand that they coined a proverb about it and wondered who his father was. God wanted Saul to know that He was able to do through Saul what needed to be done.

## ***II. Our LORD Often Moves in Ways We Cannot See***

A. This all is not so amazing to us because we were told “the rest of the story” when God told it to Samuel in **chapter 9**. We need to remember as we are reading this; very few people knew what was happening. Few really knew. Samuel knew. Saul knew because Samuel told him. Saul’s servant did not know. Saul’s friends did not know. Even Saul’s uncle and Father did not know.

B. God frequently works His plan behind the scenes where we cannot see. Do you remember the prophet **Habakkuk**? He complained God was doing nothing about the situation in Judah. **(Habakkuk 1:3-4)**

***“Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds.”***

1. God graciously responded to Habakkuk’s challenge and showed us something we would not have seen any other way.

***“Look among the nations and watch— be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you. For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs.”*** **(Habakkuk 1:5–6)**

Habakkuk is significant to us today because what happened to him seems to be happening in our country right now. We must know God is at work and He will take care

of all of us who are His righteous ones who live by faith in Him, otherwise there is no hope.

2. My second example is Joseph. Remember how there is no recorded sin in Joseph. Even though Joseph seemed to live his whole life putting the living God first, trouble after trouble seemed to keep on following him. He spent time as a slave torn from his loving father and “just happened” to be sold to Potiphar the captain of the king’s guard. Potiphar just happened to have a wife who took a shine to Joseph and he ended up in prison where he just happened to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh’s baker and butler. The latter of which, when he finally remembered Joseph was the catalyst for Joseph’s exaltation to second in Egypt and the means to bring Jacob (Israel) and all his children to Egypt in fulfillment of the LORD’s eternal plan. We always take **Genesis 50:20** individually yet, it also has a strong national application.

***“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”***

3. Do we recognize that there is more going on in our lives and the life of God’s church here than we can see with our eyes or touch with our hands? God is not inactive or uncaring in 21<sup>st</sup> century America or in Lansing, Michigan. God cares about what is happening in our lives and is busy bring about His will.

4. Sometimes, we, like Israel, decide we know better than God what needs to be done. Sometimes, in God’s permissive will, He allows us to have our way. But when He does, we always pay for our sinful choice. There is a consequence to not following God’s way and commands in our lives. We must trust Him to carry us through.

Do we really believe the truth of **Proverbs 3:5-6**?

***“Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will direct your paths.”***

***“Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 Amplified Bible)***

Trusting Him is all we need to do. Trusting Him is very hard to do, but trust we must.