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Samuel Anoints Sha'ul
First Samuel 9:26 to 10:16

Samuel anoints Sha'ul DIG: After Sha'ul's anointing, what three signs assured him that ADONAI truly had chosen him? What three lessons about God's care should Sha'ul have learned from the signs? What about Sha'ul's coronation did he have in common with David and Solomon? Why the private coronation, when there would be a public coronation later? In what sense did God change Sha'ul into a different person?

REFLECT: Sha'ul was tall and handsome – he looked like a leader. Have you ever been tempted to follow or partner with someone because he or she looked good? If so, when? How did that turn out? If some seer were reading all that was in your heart and telling you where your lost items were, would you have responded as Sha'ul did? Why or why not? In what sense did God change you into a different person?

**Then Samuel took a flask of oil he had prepared,
and poured it on Sha'ul's head, setting him apart for service.**

Samuel anoints Sha'ul (9:26 to 10:1): After **the feast** at **the high place (9:22-24)**, having returned to **the city** and spent the night on **Samuel's** cool of **the rooftop** (**to see link click Bw – Samuel meets Sha'ul**), both **Sha'ul** and **Samuel got up early. About daybreak, Samuel called out to Sha'ul on the roof, "Get up, so I can send you on your way." When Sha'ul got up, he and Samuel went outside Ramah together** because **Samuel** needed to talk to **Sha'ul** in private. **As they were going down, at the edge of the city, Samuel said to Sha'ul, "Tell your servant to go on ahead of us" – and the servant did so.** In that way, **the servant** would not witness the **private coronation** of **the king**; it was only to be between **Sha'ul** and **Samuel**. **But you stay here awhile, so that I can give you a message from ADONAI (9:26-27).**



The time had not yet come for a **public coronation** of **Isra'el's** first **king**, and from **Sha'ul's** perspective it was probably merciful that **he** should be given some time to adjust to the sudden reality that **he** had been chosen by **YHVH**. **Then Samuel took a flask of oil he had prepared, and poured it on Sha'ul's head,** setting him apart for service. **He kissed him and said, "ADONAI has anointed you as the prince** (Hebrew: *nagid*) **over His people" (9:17** and **10:1).** The word **"king"** is deliberately avoided because **YHVH** is **Isra'el's King**.[229] This was **his private coronation**; but **his public coronation** would come soon (see **By – Long Live the King**). Both **David** (**Second Samuel 2:4** and **Second Samuel 5:3)** and **Solomon** also had double coronations **(First Kings 1:28** and **First Chronicles 29:21).** But for **Sha'ul**, from that moment on, **he** was **the leader** of **God's people**; however, only **Samuel** and **Sha'ul** knew about it. How would young **Sha'ul** be sure that **ADONAI** really chose **him**? **Samuel** gave **Sha'ul three signs**, or prophecies, that **he** would encounter as **he** made **his** way home.[230]

> **The first sign (10:2): After you leave me today, you will find two men by Rachel's Tomb, in the territory of Benjamin at Tzeltzah. They will tell you that the donkeys you were searching for have been found** (news that **Sha'ul** had already heard from **Samuel**)**, and that your father has stopped thinking about the donkeys and is worried about you,** asking: **What am I to do about my son?** Apparently those **men** knew who **Sha'ul** was, and that **he** had been away from home seeking **his father's donkeys**. This should have been a good experience for **him**, for **it should have assured Sha'ul that ADONAI could solve his problems**. But one of **Sha'ul's** greatest failures as a leader was **his** inability to take **his** hands off situations and let **God** work. In modern language, **Sha'ul** was a "control

freak." Yet, while **Sha'ul** and **his servant** were dining with **Samuel**, **God** was at work saving **the lost donkeys**.[231]

The second sign (10:3-4): Then you will go on from there, and you will come to the Oak of Tavor. Three men will meet you there on their way up to God at Bethel. This signified a return to **the LORD**. **Abraham** did it **(Genesis 12:8** and **13:1-4)**, and so did **Jacob (Genesis 28:18-19** and **35:1-15**). In spite of the nation's unbelief, there were still devoted **people** in the Land who honored **ADONAI** and sought **His** face. **One of them will be carrying three baby goats** (for a sacrifice)**, another three loaves of bread** (for a grain offering) **and the third a skin of wine** (for a drink offering)**. They will greet you and give you two loaves of bread,** one for **Sha'ul** and one for **his servant**, **which you are to accept from them. God** was trying to show **the** young **king** that not only could **He** solve **his** problems, but that **He could also supply his needs.** As **the** first **king** of **Isra'el**, **he** would have to raise up an army and provide food and equipment the men needed; thus, **he** would have to depend on **YHVH**.[232]

The third sign (10:5-7): After that, you will come to Gibeah, meaning *the hill of God***, where the Philistines are garrisoned. On arrival at the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place, preceded by lutes, tambourines, flutes and lyres; and they will be prophesying. Then the Spirit of ADONAI will fall on you; you will prophesy with them and be turned into a different person** (see **Samuel and the prophets** below)**!** This did not mean that **Sha'ul** had a personal relationship with **YHVH**, but refers to a different attitude and outlook. **The** young **king** would hopefully now think and act like **a leader** who served **the LORD** and obeyed **His** will. Therefore, **God** was trying to show **Sha'ul** that not only could **He** solve **his** problems and supply **his** needs, but that **He would empower Sha'ul with the power he needed for service. When these signs come over you, just do whatever you feel like doing, because God is with you (10:5-7).** Even after the **three signs**, **Sha'ul** was to simply go about **his** normal routine until **his public coronation**.[233]

Then Samuel told **Sha'ul**, after **your public coronation, "You are to go down ahead of me to Gilgal,** the place where **Joshua** had renewed **Isra'el's** covenant with **God** (see the commentary on **Joshua Ct – The Renewal of the Covenant**), and **wait there seven days, until I come and tell you what**

to do." Since it was situated in a valley, a thousand feet below sea-level, the traveler would literally have to **go down** to get there. Once **Sha'ul** was there, **Samuel** would **come down to offer Sha'ul burnt offerings and present sacrifices as peace offerings** (see the commentary on **Leviticus Ak – The Peace Offerings, at Peace with God**)**,** which were presumably intended to thank **God** for the victory **Sha'ul** would have won over **the Philistines. But he** was warned, **"You must wait there seven days, until I come to you and tell you what to do"** (after a year of thinking about it, see what happened in **Cc – Samuel Rebukes Sha'ul**). **As it happened, as soon as Sha'ul had turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed Sha'ul's heart; and all those signs took place that day (10:8-9).** All **three signs** were fulfilled, but only **Sha'ul** among **the prophets** is recorded in the Bible.

Sha'ul among the prophets (10:10-12): Isra'el's elders had demanded **a** worldly **king**, and **God** sent **Sha'ul** as **His** answer. **Sha'ul** was **the anointed one** and **king** for unbelieving **Isra'el**, and would bring relief from the heavy **Philistine** hand. To that end, **Ha'Shem** sent **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** to equip **Sha'ul** for the task ahead.[234] For the first time in **his** life, **the Spirit** enabled **Sha'ul** to have a personal experience with **the LORD** and to express it in praise and worship. Had **Sha'ul** continued to nurture this walk with **ADONAI**, **his** life would have been much different. There is no evidence that **Sha'ul** was a wicked person, but **he** was a secular person, not a spiritual person. **When they arrived at Gibeah (10:5), right there in front of him was a group of prophets, the Spirit of God fell on him and he prophesied along with them. The people** of **Gibeah**, who evidently knew **Sha'ul**, were not impressed.[235] **When people** from **his** own home town **saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, "What's happened to Kish's son? Is Sha'ul a prophet, too?" They** saw an obvious change in **him**. Then, **someone in the crowd answered, "Must prophets' fathers be special?" So it became a** proverbial **expression – "Is Sha'ul also among the prophets?"** Not that **Sha'ul** had become **a prophet**, but that **the Spirit of God**, coming on **Sha'ul** in power, authenticated **him** as **Isra'el's** next **king.** [236] But did **Sha'ul's changed heart** result in a new zeal to serve **God** and obey **His Word**? The answer was "No!"

Sha'ul's return home (10:13-16): So, **when Sha'ul had finished prophesying, he** returned home and went back to work on the farm as though nothing remarkable had happened. **He** knew **he** was to say nothing about **the anointing**, so **he** didn't mention anything about **it** to **his** family. Apparently the

news about **his** prophetic experiences hadn't reached as far as **Gibeah**. **Sha'ul's uncle,** doubtless seeking information, **said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" Sha'ul** answered: **To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they hadn't been found, we went to Samuel.** It appears that the news of **Sha'ul's feasting** with **Samuel** had already spread and needed to be explained.[237] **"Tell me, please," said Sha'ul's uncle, "what Samuel said to you." He** obviously felt that the meeting with **Samuel** had a lot more to do than just with lost **donkeys**. However, **Sha'ul answered his uncle, saying, "He told us that the donkeys had been found,"** which was true, **but said nothing to him about the matter of his being made king.** One more task awaited **Sha'ul**, and that was to meet **Samuel** at **Gilgal** and have **his public coronation**. This would be a **test** to see if **Sha'ul** was truly devoted to **ADONAI** and willing to obey **Him**. Unfortunately, **he** failed.[238]

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** for being such a wonderful **Father**! **You** are always watching over me to bless me and never to harm me. **You** do **test** me sometimes, so that **You** can bless and reward me when I pass the **test**. **For no one can lay any other foundation than what is already laid – which is Yeshua the Messiah. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear. For the Day will show it, because it is to be revealed by fire; and the fire itself will test each one's work – what sort it is. If anyone's work built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward (First Corinthians 3:11-14)!***

*How reassuring to know that never do you **temp** anyone to fall. **Temptations** come thru someone's own desires and also thru Satan who **tempts**, so that someone will fall and miss your blessing. **Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God" – for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He himself tempts no one. But each one is tempted when he is dragged away and enticed by his own desire. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is full grown, it brings forth death (James 1:13-15).***

You** are always so kind and loving to me. Even when **You discipline** me, **You** do it for my best, to bring me joy as I turn away from sin and seek to draw closer to **You** in obedience. **My son, do not take lightly the discipline of Adonai or lose heart when you are corrected by Him, because Adonai disciplines the one He loves . . . Now all discipline seems painful at the moment – not joyful.

But later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:5-6a, 11). Messiah’s *goal is to train* ***His children*** *thru* ***discipline*** *that* ***His children*** *may produce* ***the peaceful fruit of righteousness****.* ***You*** *are the supreme joy of my life and I delight in loving, praising and serving* ***You****! In* ***Messiah Yeshua’s*** *holy* ***Name*** *and power of* ***His*** *resurrection. Amen*