

Samuel Anoints Saul

1 Samuel 9:1 – 10:9

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Saul was a very handsome man and was a head taller than anyone else. For three days he had been searching for some lost donkeys, but couldn't find them anywhere. Saul said to his servant, "Let's go home. By now my father will be more worried about us than about the donkeys!"

But the servant knew about a prophet who lived nearby and said, "Maybe he can tell us where to find the donkeys."

They went up to the town, and as they passed in through the gates, Samuel was coming out. When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, "This is the man. He will rule my people." The Lord had told Samuel about Saul the day before.

Saul approached Samuel and asked, "Can you please tell me where the seer's house is?"

Samuel replied, "I am the seer. Don't worry about those donkeys; they've been found. But listen to me. The hope of Israel rests on you and your family."

Saul objected, "I'm nobody, from the least important family of the smallest tribe of Israel! Why are you saying this to me?"

Samuel hosted a banquet at which Saul was the guest of honor. The next morning Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head. He kissed Saul and said, "The Lord has appointed you to be the ruler of Israel. After you leave me today, you will meet two men who will tell you that the donkeys have been found and that your father is now worried about you. Then you will encounter some men who will offer you bread, which you are to accept. Later you will meet a band of prophets. The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them."

God changed Saul's heart, and everything happened just as Samuel had said it would.