

A MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART
A study in I and II Samuel and the Psalms of David
AMEN Bible Study 2014-2015

Saul: Tall, Handsome, and Cowardly

I Samuel 9-12

October 9, 2014

9:1-27 **I. The providence of God and the quest for the Savior King.**

:1-2 A. A personal introduction: the future Savior King is revealed.

1. What is he like?
2. Where is he from?
3. What he lacks.
4. It would greatly profit us all if we chose our leaders by their piety rather than their cleverness. (*The Treasury of David*, Spurgeon)

:3-27 B. A providential encounter: meet “asked for.”

:3-26 1. The providence of God revealed.

“Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel.... I am sending you a man...you shall anoint him to be prince over my people.”

a. What is the providence of God?

- 1) Westminster Shorter Catechism – *God’s works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions.* 1647 AD
- 2) Heidelberg Catechism – *God’s providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth, and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand.* 1563 AD

b. What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?

Heidelberg Catechism – We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from His love; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move.

c. Andrew Murray

“He brought me here. It’s by His will I am in this very place. In that fact I will rest. He will keep me here in His love and give me grace to behave as His child. Then He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me that lessons He intends for me to learn in His good time. He will bring me out again how and when He knows. So let me say that I am (a) here by God’s appointment; (b) in His keeping; (c) under His training; (d) for His time.”

:27 2. The Word of God proclaimed.

“...stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God.

10:1-27 **II. The Spirit of God and the preparation of the Savior King.**

:1-16 A. The private preparation of the Savior King.

Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. ... “What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?”

:17-24b B. The public proclamation of the Savior King.

Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

:24c-2

C. The response of the people.

...with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him....

11:1-15

III. The kingdom of God and the work of the Savior King.

:1-4

A. The enemies of God threaten the people of God.

Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead... But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel."

:5-7

B. The king responds in righteous indignation.

And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled.

:8-11

C. The king mobilizes an army to work a great deliverance.

He mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

:12-15

D. The people of God worship and renew their vows.

Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom." So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

12:1-25

IV. The grace of God and the renewal of the kingdom.

:1-12

A. Look back – the history of God's grace.

:1-5

1. God's grace is seen in the provision of a godly leader.

They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand." And he said to them, "The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they said, "He is witness."

:6-12

2. God's grace is seen in the lives of your forefathers.

Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers.

:13-18

B. Look up – the fuel of God's grace: repentance and renewal.

*And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king. Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes. Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord, that he may send thunder and rain. **And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking for yourselves a king.**" So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and **all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.***

:19-25

C. Look ahead – the means of God's grace.

:19-23a

1. Prayer

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you...

:23b-25

2. The Word.

I will instruct you in the good and right way. Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.