

The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 11

The Royal Ascension of Saul

God has already revealed to Samuel that Saul would be the first king of Israel. Samuel had revealed this to Saul and then God had confirmed it to Saul. In this lesson, we will see Saul made king before the nation.

26. The Choice of Saul by Lot - I Samuel 10:17-21

- Mizpeh - site of the revival led by Samuel in I Samuel 7.
- vs. 18 - Bringing Israel out of Egypt is the feat most often mentioned by God when declaring his might and strength.
- vs. 19 - Calls back to I Samuel 8 when the people demanded a king.
- The natural subdivision of the people of Israel would be something akin to Tribe divided into families divided into houses divided into individuals (see Joshua 7:14). Moses introduced another method in Exodus 18:25 dividing people numerically in divisions of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. It appears that the terms *thousand* and *family* were used interchangeably. We see a similar action to this in Joshua 7.
- Casting lots (cleromancy) - practically nothing is known as to the exact practice used by the ancient Jews. Some believe this was accomplished with the use of Urim and Thummim (Exodus 28:30).

27. The Installation of Saul as King - I Samuel 10:22-25

- vs.22 - Why did Saul hide himself? The general opinion is that he was somewhat humbled by the coming kingship and was trying to avoid it. It is difficult to determine motive here.
- It is estimated that me at this time averaged 5'6" or less in height. Saul was probably then about 6'6".
- vs. 24 - I think it needs to be noted here that Samuel appeals to the physical appearance and bearing of Saul before the people. This will be contrasted to the choice of David, whom God tells Samuel to ignore the physical appearance of (I Samuel 16:7).
- vs. 25 - some 2,200 years before the Magna Carta was signed limiting the power of the English monarchs, Samuel has laid out a charter for the powers of their king. Probably it was based on Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

28. Saul's Brief Return to Private Life- I Samuel 10:26-27

- There was no palace, no crown... nothing save the title of king. Saul does the only thing he can do, and goes home.
- Note the division among the people. It wasn't right vs. left or Democrat vs. Republican. It was the righteous vs. the unrighteous, saved vs. lost.