

Unfolding Unveiling: Studies of Christ Revealed in the Types of Joshua, David, and Solomon

Part Five: Saul

Chapter Fifteen: The Final Ministry of Samuel

*“...for the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.”
I Samuel 3:21*

*“Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day onward.”
I Samuel 16:13*

Saul was rejected by God in I Samuel 15. The very next thing that God did was to have Samuel anoint David in chapter 16. Samuel was a type of the Spirit of Truth as described in John 16:13-15, Who does not speak of Himself, but guided Israel into all truth, David being the Truth Himself as Christ revealed. This Spirit of Truth speaks what He hears. Samuel heard the Word in Shiloh and spoke it to Israel. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the throne in the heavenlies and instructs us about the realities in Christ. He glorifies Christ. Samuel anointed David in the midst of his brethren. The Holy Spirit shows all that belongs to the Father and the Son. Samuel showed how all that he saw to be true in Shiloh pertained to David and to all Israel as they identified in David.

Samuel was lost in the tabernacle. The Lord appeared in Shiloh, not Samuel. Samuel lived in the fullness and completion of God's thought, which is the bosom of the Father (cf. Jn. 1:18). He lived in the reality of God's thought. He could only anoint that which was the same. He beheld the Lord and all that Samuel and David did was simply an outworking (manifestation) of the reality in which they dwelt. It is important to note that all who spent time with the Lord IN the sanctuary understood the One. Joshua (cf. Ex. 33:11), Samuel (cf. I Sam. 3:21), and David (cf. II Sam. 6:17) are all examples of this fact.

Samuel's Crowning Ministry

Saul has been in the forefront of the story line for a while, but we must now bring Samuel back into the picture, as the Scriptures do, to continue in our study of the contrast between the self-life and Christ revealed as David. Samuel is still a type of the Holy Spirit, and his actions in I Samuel 16 declare God's answers to the problems in Israel.

Here we have Samuel, ministering in type as the Holy Spirit, trying to lead and guide God's people in the ways that will bring them into the knowledge of the Lord. In the first three chapters of I Samuel, a huge change in the government of Israel had been

prophesied, and Samuel was to be a key factor in this shift. We see in this passage of Scripture the highest point of his ministry. He judged and served Israel for many years, yet there is relatively little said of his ministry other than the fact that he was an upright man without blame. But one of the few occurrences of his ministry that is dwelt upon in detail is the anointing of David as king over Israel. This is what makes him something of note in the Scriptures. It is also interesting to notice that in chapter 15 God rejects a king, and that His very first action in chapter 16 is to anoint a new king. This was not Samuel's idea, but the mind of the Lord. Samuel was only the instrument, the one sent to anoint.

How does this compare to Samuel being a type of the Holy Spirit? John 16 gives us some elements of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and we can compare them to Samuel and see the similarities. John 16:13-15 says,

“Nevertheless, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself, but whatever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine; therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.”

I Samuel 3:21 says that the Lord revealed Himself in Shiloh by the Word of the Lord. That was the origin of Samuel's ministry. His ministry flowed from revelation by the Word that was revealed in the tabernacle, in Shiloh. This was the starting point of his ministry, just as the Holy Spirit is sent from the heavenlies from the heart of the Father, and He comes down into the earth and ministers here that which He has been told and that which He has seen. He comes to us and ministers of that reality, though we be carnally minded, though we do not understand, though we may not have a perfect heart to know the Lord. Still He is there ministering, loving, drawing, directing, guiding. Samuel spent his life doing just these things for a nation that was out of order during the span of his ministry. Even so, his ministry was constant and consistent, and it culminated in the anointing of the king whom God had chosen to anoint Israel.

Samuel only spoke to the people what he heard from the Word of the Lord at Shiloh. We see how the Holy Spirit lifts up Christ in the gospels' record of the Holy Spirit descending and remaining upon the Beloved Son. The most important ministry of the Holy Spirit is resting upon the Beloved Son, the Chosen One, that He might be recognized for who He is. Here we have Samuel exercising the highest purpose of his ministry, being sent of God to anoint the one that pleased God's heart, the one that God had chosen.

It is here in chapter 16 that we find the often-quoted verse, “Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.” I Samuel 13:14 says, “The Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people.” The Bible also says, “There is none righteous, no, not one,” and, “There is none that seeketh after God,” (cf. Rom. 3:10, 11). So if there is anyone that is righteous, if there is any that seeks after God, it is Jesus Christ Himself. He is the only one that has a heart after God, because it is only the nature of the Lord that has such a desire.

We see in David a type of Christ revealed in the midst of the brethren (cf. I Sam. 16:13) by the Holy Spirit, and revelation being symbolized by his anointing as king. The Holy Spirit anoints Christ and lifts up the One that is after God's heart to be captain over His people, the One that can govern and rule over them. This is the ministry of Samuel.

The state of Israel is very serious at this time. They are happily following a king that has been rejected by the Lord. They wanted it; they begged for it. Israel, by allowing such a king as Saul to govern them, had manifested their true heart condition toward the Lord. They have rejected the Lord as their government, as we saw in I Samuel 8:7. They wanted flesh and a fleshly viewpoint to govern them. This is a serious condition. Samuel could have pointed out so many of Israel's problems. He could have made new rules for Israel to follow. He could have punished Israel for their apostasy. He could have preached a different sermon every week, each one addressing a different problem. He could have commanded them to repent of all their sins. He could have said, "I told you so. You should never have asked for a king!" Indeed, if he had done all this, he would have been very busy, for when the self-life sits on the throne, problems will proliferate themselves.

We can see in Saul's behavior how the carnal mind works. When we see a problem, we isolate the problem, we focus in on it, and we fix it. This is how humanity works. What is God's answer to the problems in Israel? He calls Samuel to anoint David. He simply lifts up the Lord; He does not try to solve the problem. We as believers do not like problems. We do not like to see them in other people, we do not like to see them in ourselves, and we want to see them fixed. We think that we prove our love and commitment to the Lord when we admit to Him that we have a problem and then do everything in our power to try to overcome it.

Please notice that the Lord does not relate to Israel this way. This is His covenant people, and they are a type of the spiritual Israel of God. We are the true Israel, and we can see how the Lord relates to His covenant people when they are off track and being governed by something other than Himself in how He dealt with natural Israel. He sends the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ. He does not even answer the specific problem per se. He does not give the proper "spiritual answer" to the problems generated by the flesh. He does speak to the realm where these problems exist. He simply sends the Holy Spirit to lift up Christ.

We must have our minds renewed to this! We get caught in trying to deal with problems and issues, as if the Lord is pleased with our pursuing Him in reference to helping us fix these things. The carnal mind fails to understand how the true answer, as far as God is concerned, is not finding an answer to each problem but to turn from the problem and look at Christ, to know Him fully, and begin to relate to Him as God's chosen king, allowing ourselves to be governed by the One who is after God's own heart.

Does the act of anointing David as king change everything that is wrong in Israel at that time? No. Israel will continue for years under Saul's reign. David will not be recognized as king over Israel until II Samuel chapter five. Immediately after Samuel anoints David, the Scriptures return to describing Saul's kingdom.

The Rejected King

After this time we have a very interesting situation in Israel because even though Saul has been rejected as king and David has been anointed, Saul is still sitting on the throne in Israel. There are two kings in Israel at the same time: a rejected king, and an anointed king. But the rejected king is ruling Israel.

Every action of Saul's that is recorded in the book of I Samuel after chapter 15 is the action of a rejected king. Everything he does, every decision he makes, is completely apart from the Lord. In God's heart, David was king even though Saul was sitting on the throne. David was the only king that God recognized, and those who followed David from that time forward was the only kingdom that God acknowledged to be His.

Some people say that Saul reigned for 40 years, and others say no, but even though we do not know the precise length of his reign, we know that he ruled Israel a lot longer than he should have. But the Lord did not force Saul off the throne or strike him dead where he stood. He was sitting on the throne. He was still leading campaigns. He was still ruling when David fought Goliath in chapter 17. If he had cared about the Lord in the least, he would have voluntarily stepped down from the throne the minute that the Lord told him that he had been rejected as king. If not at that moment, then as soon as he had perceived that the Spirit of the Lord had left him and rested on David, he should have stepped down. But Saul continued ruling as if nothing had changed. This is what the self-life does. You can tell the self-life that it has been rejected as your government, but it will still act like it is in charge. The self-life does not care that Christ is the Chosen One and that He is the one who is lifted up.

We do not see Saul repent of his sins or regret his actions. In fact, we see no change in his rule until he realizes that the Lord is with David, and then he gets upset, but that is not until chapter 18. Because the self-life does not recognize God's Word as its final authority, it has no bearing on the self-life's direction and motive. It will therefore continue as if nothing has happened.

From this time on, up until Saul's death in chapter 31, every one of Saul's decisions and actions are those of a rejected king. God does not honor or recognize any of them. The Lord will not speak to him, and neither does Samuel, up until the day of his death, and the Lord does not recognize any who identify in Saul's reign. He no longer acknowledges that kingdom because He considers it invalid; He has started something new. He has a new king. As far as God is concerned, everything Saul does is a waste of time.

From chapter 16 forward, we must see David as the real king, no matter what the circumstances look like. From now on, whoever is following Saul is part of a rejected kingdom, and those who are following David are true subjects of the true king. This will clarify exactly what is taking place throughout the remainder of the book of I Samuel.

The Heart of the People

The people were so far from the heart and mind of God, however, that they were content to live under the king of their choosing though that king was rejected by God (and that king knew it!). It is interesting that the people seemed to content under Saul's reign. I wonder if they had even noticed that God had rejected Saul as king. When we are governed by self, we are usually not alert enough to notice such things.

At the very least, the Scripture records no outcry, no mourning, no repentance coming from the people over their wayward king. I believe this lack of alertness to be a symptom of Israel's hard heart. They were so far away from the Lord that they did not even realize who it was that was sitting on the throne – self! When we are in a sleepy, dull state, when our hearts stray far from Him, it does not occur to us that the king sitting on the throne of our heart is selfish. We do not even notice that it is self. We just serve whoever it is that is sitting up there. Because we do not see as God sees, we fail to notice that there is no anointing on the king sitting there. We just continue giving all of our best to bolster King Self, who is sitting on the throne, thus making him more and more secure in his niche. Meanwhile, we allow Jesus to take cover in the shadows.

Along the same lines, the Scriptures never declare that the nation of Israel as a whole disliked or even rejected David. Quite the contrary, I Samuel 18:6-7, 13, 16 and even II Samuel 5:2 show very plainly that both Israel and Judah loved and respected David. He was a very popular leader in Israel while at the same time the people were pleased with Saul being their king. There is love for two masters. Of course they liked David; he was a benefit to them (see I Sam. 18:6-7). He behaved himself wisely, he wrought great victories when Israel had been in bondage for so many hundreds of years. We can be governed by Saul and still love the Lord; we just won't let Him sit on the throne. We love David because he will serve Saul, for a time. It is the nature of Christ to serve others, but He is not supposed to be serving another kingdom. David is not supposed to be sitting at Saul's table; he was supposed to be at the head of the table.

Everyone seemed satisfied with this. They had their king Saul, and they had David, who was benefiting them. In God's eyes, this is not what was happening. In God's eyes, we have a rejected king sitting at the head of a kingdom, and His chosen King subservient (when He should be governing) to this wrong motivation, to this self-life. This is a serious departure from God's intention for Israel.

This is what we as believers do. Those who are governed by self will recognize Jesus, and self will even love and respect Jesus in its own way, but they will be content to stay under Saul. Those governed by self are blind to the fact that Christ ought to be sitting on the throne. When self governs, those under Saul will passively go along with him or just will not resist him.

Something that further incriminates the people is comparing their statement in II Samuel 5:2 with I Samuel 13:14. They recognized that David was their God-appointed leader. If they knew it all those years that Saul was reigning, then why did they not repent? Or

maybe they were so dull for all that time that though they had heard the word of the Lord, self had dulled their sensitivity, and it took that long for them to awaken to it. This leaves us with two conclusions: either they knew the word of the Lord but did not obey it, or they were so dulled by living for self that they could not hear it.

The Reality of the Kingdom versus Its Realization

When Samuel told Saul that the Lord had rejected him as king over Israel, he did not do so privately; all of the armies of Israel were there when Samuel delivered his message. What had transpired, then, was no secret in Israel. By implication in later Scriptures, we can see that people knew that David was supposed to be the king. II Samuel 5:2 bears this out:

“Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he who leddest out and broughtest in Israel; and the Lord said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people, Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.”

Israel was acknowledging what Samuel had said so many years before.

The problem we have here is the huge lapse of time between when Samuel declared it in I Samuel 16 and when Israel acknowledged it in II Samuel 5. There is a span of up to 20 years between these two events. Why would it take Israel so long to recognize the direction of the Lord in their midst? What were they doing all of that time? The Scriptures do not say specifically. Maybe they were too happy in their present state. Maybe life was good enough under Saul.

When David was anointed, Israel failed to recognize the profundity of that act. They could not recognize that to anoint David king over Israel was God’s highest honor. This is God saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Those words mean nothing to the self-life. It does not matter that God has a Beloved Son. We love ourselves too much, or hate ourselves too much – self is in there too much to recognize that something else is going on.

Israel’s hearts were hard, and the self-life does harden you to God’s heart. You cannot possibly make preeminent in your life that which is important to the Lord when you have another agenda. Your own agenda will blind you to what is important to the Lord. It could be your own ministry, or it could be your own personal problems. Anything that makes you the center of what is going on, which includes working on yourself for Jesus, will be a hindrance to you knowing Him and recognizing when Holy Spirit comes to lift up Christ.

You can even be knowing the Lord in the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit open your eyes to see Him, but if self is still allowed to rule, that Word will never take effect. It does not make any change in you because it is not governing you. It is just something good that you saw in the Word.

Remember, the Scripture said that there was no open vision of the Lord at this time. The nation of Israel was in a rut, and they did not even know it. This is why when the Word of

the Lord came, it was ineffective in their hearts; they were not living in a place where they could hear what the Lord had to say and how important it is to Him. What is important to God is not important to us as long as we have our own agenda. When God's agenda is important to us, then His Word means everything. It is at this point that we can say, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." As long as we have our own agenda, the Lord can speak His Word directly into our lives, and it means nothing to us.

We might even feel bad when we hear His Word and realize that we do not measure up, but eventually we will continue in our own way. Why? Because self is sitting on the throne, and he keeps us going in the same direction. As long as he is governing, you cannot change that course.

We can be seeing Christ in the Word and taking the Land and still not be governed by Christ. Taking the Land is a faith issue only. It requires no manifestation. It takes the Lord a long time just to get His people to the place where they believe that they have all that is theirs in Christ. But to believe that all that is in Christ is yours does not mean that your actions and motivations have been changed. It does not mean that you have changed your Source when relating to your brothers and sisters. This all happens under King David.

Saul has no intention of serving the Lord. Self in the believer has no intention of serving the Lord. It must come to a head in us, just as it did in Israel, it must rise to the top and sit on the throne so that the Lord can deal with it as a head. This is His mercy toward His people. The reason why He allowed king Saul is because He could deal with a head instead of having to deal with each person as their own head. It looks bad when the impurities are shown for what they are, but it is the Lord's method of dealing with them.

This is the point in the progression at which the Lord brings the self-life to light. The self-life does not get dealt with in the wilderness, or at the Jordan, or when we are taking the Land. It gets dealt with after we have begun to be established in the Land.

What Israel Needed

What Israel needed was a change of government. Even God speaking through Samuel, who anointed God's new government, is not enough to change what is happening in Israel.

It takes the Holy Spirit to show us that the self-life is ruling, and we can only discern its actions and thoughts in the light of Christ revealed as David. The bad side of Saul comes to light when he is compared to David. Before David is anointed king, his faults seem subtle and difficult to notice. But after David is anointed, Saul gets ugly. He wants to kill David, he falsely accuses his son of conspiring against him, he uses his armies to hunt David instead of fighting the inhabitants in the Land.

There is no answer the problem of self; it is not a problem to be solved. We must see the Lord in a new way. Joshua will not do in this case. It is only David who can succeed Saul. Joshua is the captain of our salvation; he led us in taking the Land, but he is not our governor. He is not the government. David was the first true king over Israel that was anointed by God to govern and to bring all of Israel together under one Head. Joshua was certainly a leader, but he was a military leader. He was not their king. He is never referred to in the Scriptures as King Joshua. That is the difference between Joshua and David. It is the difference between taking the Land and being governed by that which (Him Who) cause us to take the Land.