

The paradoxical process of making Saul a messiah

9.15-17: **YHWH secretly reveals the choice of Saul to be “ruler”** (Heb, *nagid*) to Samuel the day before Saul meets “the man of God,” i.e., Samuel. The purpose is to “save my people from the hand of the **Philistines**”

9.20: Samuel tells Saul that “all Israel’s desire [is] fixed... on you and on all your father’s house”

10.1: Samuel secretly anoints (Heb, *mshh*) Saul in the name of YHWH as “**ruler** (Heb, *nagid*) over his people Israel.” The purpose is to “reign over the people of YHWH and ...save them from the hand of their **enemies all around.**”

10.17-24: Samuel, after chastising the people for having “rejected your God (Heb, *elohim*) who saves you from all evils and distresses,” **chooses Saul by lot**, but asks, “Do you see the **one whom YHWH has chosen?**” The people affirm the choice with “Long live the king!” and everyone goes home.

11.5-13: Saul, still a working farmer in Gibeah, receives “**the spirit of God...in power**” and musters the people to “come out after Saul and Samuel” to take on the **Ammonites.**

11.14-15: Samuel leads the people in a “restoration (Heb, *haddesh*, with several meanings) of the monarchy” ceremony: “and there **they made Saul king before YHWH** in Gilgal.”

12.12-15: Samuel tells the people, “But when you saw that King **Nahash of the Ammonites came against you**, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us,’ though YHWH your God was your king. Behold, here is **the king whom you have chosen**, for whom you have asked; see, YHWH has set a king over you” and then links YHWH’s favor to the service and obedience of both the people and the king to the voice of YHWH.