

1 Samuel 10:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

Analysis

And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

Samuel's presentation uses emphatic language: 'See ye' (hare'item) commands visual attention; 'whom the LORD hath chosen' (bachar YHWH) affirms divine election; 'none like him' (ein kamohu) declares uniqueness. The phrase 'among all the people' creates irony - uniqueness based on physical height, not spiritual stature. The acclamation 'God save the king' (yechi hammelek) literally means 'Let the king live!' This Hebrew expression became the standard coronation formula, echoing through Israel's royal history. The 'shouting' (ruah) connotes a loud cry of acclamation, sometimes used for battle cries or worship shouts. This moment of unified celebration would prove fleeting; before chapter's end, 'children of Belial' despised Saul (v. 27). The people's initial enthusiasm parallels many who receive the gospel joyfully but fall away (Matthew 13:20-21).

Historical Context

Royal acclamations were common throughout the ancient Near East at coronations. The formula 'Long live the king!' appears in various forms in

Akkadian, Egyptian, and other ancient texts. Israel's version, while following this cultural pattern, explicitly invoked Yahweh's blessing.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How quickly can popular enthusiasm turn to opposition in your experience?
2. What is the difference between celebrating God's choice and evaluating by human standards?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר ו	שְׁמוּאֵל ל	אֵל	כָּל	הָעָם	הַנִּזְאִיתִם	אֲשֶׁר
and said	And Samuel	H413	H3605	And all the people	See	H834
H559	H8050			H5971	H7200	

בָּחַר	בּוֹ	יְהוָה	כִּי	אֵין	כָּמֹהוּ	בְּכָל
hath chosen	H0	ye him whom the LORD	H3588	H369	H3644	H3605
H977		H3068				

הָעָם	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	יְיָ	כָּל	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	יְיָ
And all the people	and said	God save	H3605	and said	H2421
H5971	H559	H2421	H3605	H559	H2421

הַמֶּלֶךְ:
the king
H4428

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 1:39 (Salvation): And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon.

1 Kings 1:25 (Salvation): For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.

2 Samuel 21:6 (Kingdom): Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them.

Deuteronomy 17:15 (Kingdom): Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

2 Kings 11:12 (Salvation): And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.