

## Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: And their prophet said unto those elders:<sup>237</sup> "Behold, now God has raised up Saul to be your king." They said: "How can he have dominion over us when we have a better claim to dominion than he, and he has not [even] been endowed with abundant wealth?" [The prophet] replied: "Behold, God has exalted him above you, and endowed him abundantly with knowledge and bodily perfection. And God bestows His dominion<sup>238</sup> upon whom He wills: for God is infinite, all-knowing."

Malik: Their Prophet told them: "Allah has appointed Talut to be your king." They replied: "How can he be our king when some of us are more deserving than him? Besides he is not rich." The Prophet said: "Allah has chosen him to rule over you and blessed him with knowledge and stature. Allah grants kingship to whom He pleases and Allah has boundless knowledge."

Mustafa Khattab:

Their prophet told them, "Allah has appointed Saul<sup>1</sup> to be your king." They protested, "How can he be our king when some of us are more deserving of kingship than he, and he has not been blessed with vast riches?" He replied, "Allah has chosen him over you and blessed him with knowledge and stature. Allah grants kingship to whoever He wills. And Allah is All-Bountiful, All-Knowing."

Pickthall: Their Prophet said unto them: Lo! Allah hath raised up Saul to be a king for you. They said: How can he have kingdom over us when we are more deserving of the kingdom than he is, since he hath not been given wealth enough? He said: Lo! Allah hath chosen him above you, and hath increased him abundantly in wisdom and stature. Allah bestoweth His sovereignty on whom He will. Allah is All Embracing, All Knowing.

Yusuf Ali: Their Prophet said to them: "Allah hath appointed Talut as king over you." They say: "How can he exercise authority over us when we are better fitted than he to exercise authority and he is not even gifted with wealth in abundance?" He said: "Allah hath chosen him above you and hath gifted him abundantly with knowledge and bodily prowess; Allah granteth His authority to whom He pleaseth. Allah careth for all and He knoweth all things." <sup>280</sup>

Transliteration: Waqala lahum nabiyuhum inna Allaha qad baAAatha lakum taloota malikan qaloo anna yakoonu lahu almulku AAalayna wanaahu ahaqqu bialmulki minhu walam yuta saAAatan mina almali qala inna Allaha istafahu AAalaykum wazadahu basatan fee alAAailmi waaljismi waAllahu yutee mulkahu man yashao waAllahu wasiAAun AAaleemun

### Author Comments

237 - Lit., "to them" - but the next sentence shows that the elders were thus addressed by Samuel.

238 - An allusion to the Qur'anic doctrine that all dominion and all that may be "owned" by man belongs to

God alone, and that man holds it only in trust from Him.

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280 - Talut is the Arabic name for Saul, who was tall and handsome, but belonged to the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel. His worldly belongings were slender, and it was when he went out to search for some asses which had been lost from his father's house that he met Samuel and was anointed king by him. The people's fickleness appeared immediately he was named. They raised all sorts of petty objections to him. The chief consideration in their minds was selfishness: each one wanted to be leader and king himself, instead of desiring sincerely the good of the people as a whole, as a leader should do.

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