

SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE IN THE NEW KINGDOM

THE REIGN OF SAUL (1)

Quarter Seven, Lesson One

Focus Text: 1 Samuel 13 – 20

Other Texts: 1 Samuel 12. 9 – 25; 2 Corinthians 5. 12; 2 Corinthians 10. 7 – 11; John 7. 24

CONTENT

1. Describe the circumstances under which Saul became Israel's first king.

2. After Saul gathered 3,000 men and attacked a garrison of the Philistines . . .
 - a. how did the Philistines respond, and what effect did that response have on the people of Israel?

 - b. while Saul waited for Samuel, what did he presume to do?

3. Consider Samuel's statement to Saul in 1 Samuel 13. 11 – 14, and explain why the crown would not remain in Saul's family. We often think about the events in chapter 15 as Saul's downfall, but that event was the last in a series of missteps by Saul.

4. How did the Philistines limit the ability of the Hebrews to make war against them (13. 16 – 23)?

5. In chapter 14, Saul makes an oath that restricts the men of war so that they become distressed. What was this oath and how would it distress the people?
 - a. Who violated this vow and what were the results?

 - b. On the basis of this event, evaluate Saul's wisdom and strength as king.

6. Samuel, speaking for God in chapter 15, sends Saul to destroy the Amalekites. Why was Saul to destroy every living thing in Amalek?

What other people was spared because they had shown kindness to Israel when they came out of Egypt?

7. Read 15. 22 – 23 and be ready to discuss God's attitude about obedience in contrast to rebellion.

Lesson continues. . . .

8. Discuss the consequences of Saul's sin with respect to God and Samuel.
 - a. Did Samuel ever see Saul again?
 - b. Even though Samuel refused to see Saul any longer, how did he feel about Saul?
9. The kingship would pass from Saul to what family? Describe the events leading up to the selection and anointing of the new king for Israel.
10. In chapter 16, Saul is distressed because God's spirit has left him. What is the irony in how he came to be refreshed upon these occasions?
11. Chapter 17 describes the role of David in fighting the giant of the Philistines. Give a brief description of the events.
12. Describe how David rose to prominence in Israel and how Saul reacted to his fame.
13. Describe Saul's attempts (recorded in chapters 18 – 20) to kill David. Whom did he enlist and how many different ways did he try?

CONNECTIONS

1. Compare Samuel's statement in 1 Samuel 16. 7 with 2 Corinthians 5. 12, 2 Corinthians 10. 7 – 11, and John 7. 24. How can this concept be applied today?
2. Consider the numerous Proverbs which speak about a "friend," and discuss David's relationship with Jonathan in this context. (See, for example, Proverbs 17. 17; 18. 24; 27. 6 – 17.)
3. Consider the course of Saul's life and consider how we might go through the same changes.
 - a. A tall, humble man, Saul considers himself "little in his own eyes" (1 Samuel 9. 21; 15. 17).
 - b. He presumes to take the mantle of a priest (1 Samuel 13. 8 – 10).
 - c. He rebels against God's command (1 Samuel 15. 10ff).
 - d. He becomes jealous of David, his obedient servant (1 Samuel 18. 5 – 9).
 - e. He schemes to murder David, not only by his own hand, but also involving his daughters, son, servants, the Philistines (1 Samuel 18 – 20).