

Journey Through the Bible (48)

# **The United Kingdom (2)**

## **Saul is Made King**

**1 Samuel 9-13**

# Introduction to this period

- In our last lesson, we began the 9<sup>th</sup> of 17 time periods of Bible history – the United Kingdom. This was a period where Israel is governed by a king.
- This period lasted 120 years under 3 kings – Saul, David and Solomon. From ~1050-930 BC.
- It was a period of relative peace and expansion
- Biblically - **1 Sam. 8 – 1 Kings 11, 1 Chronicles 1 - 2 Chronicles 9.**  
Also the period of much poetic literature.

# The Kingdom of Israel

- Recall **1 Samuel 8**, Israel demands a king. Samuel's sons, Joel and Abijah, were wicked. They approach Samuel.
- God gave them a king but He also warned them.

# Saul chosen as their first king

- **1 Samuel 9-13**, Israel is given the king they asked for.
- **9:1-2** – Introduces us to Saul the son of Kish.
- **9:3-26** – The donkeys of Kish are lost and Saul is sent to find them. He is introduced to Samuel (see **vs. 9**). Samuel was told he would come and to anoint him. When Saul finds him, Samuel has a feast and puts Saul at the place of honor.

# Saul chosen as their first king

- **1 Samuel 9:27-10:16** – Samuel anoints Saul to be commander of Israel
- He tells Saul that his donkeys have been found and a number of things that would happen as he returned home (see 2 men, see 3 men with various items). The most significant of these is that he would meet a group of prophets and prophecy with them.

# Saul chosen as their first king

- **1 Samuel 9:27-10:16** – Samuel anoints Saul to be commander of Israel
- As he returns home the things prophesied happened. This was God PROVING that what was to happen was His will.
- **Vs. 14-16** – when Saul returns toward his home, he tells his uncle what about the donkeys and Samuel, BUT leaves out that he had been anointed king.

# Saul chosen as their first king

- **1 Samuel 10:17-27** – Saul is publicly proclaimed to be king.
- By inquiry Benjamin, then Saul is chosen (tribe & family).
- But Saul cannot be found as he is hiding. YHWH tells the people where he is. They retrieve him, taller than anyone else.
- The people shout, “Long live the king!”
- He returns to his home (There is no palace for the king yet).
- However, some refused to honor him. Saul held his peace

# Saul chosen as their first king

- **1 Samuel 11** – Saul saves Jabesh-Gilead
- We read of Jabesh-Gilead as the city where wives for the remaining men of Benjamin were found after their wicked rebellion (**Judges 21:8-14**).
- The Ammonites subdue the city and demand that they submit. The elders seek for someone to deliver them.
- **Vs. 6** - Word comes to Saul, and the Spirit of God comes upon him.
- He rallies Israel (330,000 soldiers) and delivers the city. The people now trust in Saul as their king.

# Saul chosen as their first king

- **1 Samuel 12** – The coronation of Saul
- Samuel addresses the people.
- **12:1-5** – Samuel declares his integrity as he judged the people. NOW he steps back (resigns) so that King Saul can rule.
- **6-11** – he reminds the people of their sordid relationship with YHWH, yet He continued to deliver them when they repented.
- **12-13** – Now they demand a king, rejecting God as their king.

# Saul chosen as their first king

- **1 Samuel 12** – The coronation of Saul
- Samuel addresses the people.
- **14-15** – BUT IF they obey Him, He will continue to be with them. BUT if (when) they rebelled, the hand of YHWH would be against them.
- **16-22** – as a sign, a great storm arises demonstrating their wickedness. The people ask Samuel to pray for them. Samuel assures them that if they serve the Lord will al their heart, it will be well.

# Saul chosen as their first king

- **1 Samuel 12** – The coronation of Saul
- Samuel addresses the people.
- **23-25** – Though Samuel has stepped aside from ruling them, he would continue to pray for them and teach them what was good and right.

He gives them a final admonition to serve and fear YHWH and all would be well. BUT if you do wickedly, you will be swept away...

# Saul established as their first king

- **1 Samuel 13:1-15** – Saul's downfall begins
- After 2 years as king, Saul chooses 3000 men to serve with Him.  
Jonathan with 1000 men attacks the Philistines (who had a foothold in Israel - Geba of Benjamin)
- The Philistines amass a large army to attack Israel.
- **6-7** – The Israelites are fearful and some leave

# Saul established as their first king

- **1 Samuel 13:1-15** – Saul's downfall begins
- **8-10** – waiting for Samuel, Saul offers burnt and peace offerings. As he finishes, Samuel arrives.
- **11-14** – “What have you done?” King Saul tries to justify his conduct. “I was compelled.” Because of this his kingdom (dynasty) would not continue.
- Saul only has about 600 men with him now.

- Who do you really want to be your king?  
**James 4:4, Matthew 6:24.**
- Pride goes before a fall – **Proverbs 16:18**  
King Saul begins humble, but it will not last.  
**1 Peter 5:5-6**
- God can use you no matter who you are.  
**1 Sam. 9:21** – Saul admits Benjamin and his family were the least.
- God knows what will happen –  
He is omniscient and in control.

- God does not expect us to blindly follow Him – While we walk by faith, **2 Cor. 5:7**, we have evidence and reason to trust Him. **cf. Romans 1:20**
- NEVER stop praying for others – **James 5:13-16**
- Leaders step up in times of crisis – Saul stepped up for Jabesh-Gilead
- For leaders to be effective the people must stand behind them – **cf. Hebrews 13:17**
- Serve God with your whole heart – **Matthew 22:37**

- Feelings can lie – Saul thought it was ok to offer the sacrifices. **Jeremiah 17:9-10, cf. Acts 26:9** – Paul thought he was doing right
- We must always obey God – the sacrifice of Saul was wrong, regardless of intentions.
- God is seeking for those “after His own heart” – a reference to David.
- The choices we make have consequences – Saul’s choices begin to build up –

**Galatians 6:7-8, Proverbs 14:12**

How will you serve your King?



Let us pray!

