

King Saul and His Down Fall

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Review the family tree chart.
- B. After having been led by judges, the people of Israel began to desire a king. The Israelites wanted to be like other nations. The Lord decided to grant Israel their wish.
- C. In I Samuel 9:1-2 we find the physical description of Saul. God chose Saul based upon the Israelites' desire.

I. SAUL IS ANOINTED AND APPOINTED KING.

- A. The donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. Kish sent Saul to find the donkeys. (9:3-4)
- B. While Saul and his servant was in the land of Zuph (9:5), they decided to go to a certain city to find "a man of God" in order to get help in finding his father's donkeys. (9:6-10)
- C. After being told where the man of God was (9:11-14), Saul and his servant went to the city.
- D. God had told Samuel that he would meet a man whom God would anoint ruler of His people. The next day Samuel saw Saul. (9:15-17)
- E. Samuel took Saul in to eat with him and placed Saul in the seat of honor. (9:18-24)
- F. The next day, Samuel anointed Saul. (10:1) Afterward, Saul went on his way and received the Spirit of the Lord. (10:6,10) As a result, Saul began to prophesy.
- G. A reluctant Saul was appointed as king over Israel. (10:17-27)

II. SAUL IS ACCEPTED AS KING BY THE PEOPLE.

- A. Although Saul had been appointed as king, there was still some doubt among the people. (10:27; cf. 11:12)
- B. Saul received a cry for help from the men of Jabesh because Nahash the Ammonite had set up camp against Jabesh Gilead. (11:1-5)
- C. The Spirit of God came upon Saul and Saul became angry. Saul gathered together 300,00 men from Israel and 30,000 from Judah. Saul divided the group into three groups. They went up against the Ammonites and defeated the Ammonites. (11:6-11)
- D. Saul was accepted as king. (11:12-15)

III. SAUL'S MILITARY CAMPAIGNS.

- A. We have already looked at Saul's victory over the Ammonites. (I Sam. 11:1-11)
- B. Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines at Geba. (I Sam. 13:3)
- C. Saul and his men battled the Philistines at Michmash and were victorious. (I Sam. 13:5-14:46)
- D. Saul and his men waged war against all his enemies. He fought against the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Edomites, and against the kings of Zobah. (I Sam. 14:47)
- E. Saul defeated the Amalekites. (I Sam. 15:1-9)
- F. Saul and his army was also victorious over the Philistines in the Valley of Elah. This victory came due to David's victory over Goliath. Saul and his men then pursued the Philistines who fled. (I Sam. 17:1-54)
- G. The last military campaign of Saul was a humiliating defeat for Saul. The Philistines were victorious over Saul and his army at Mount Gilboa. It was at this battle that Saul's life ended. (I Sam. 31)

IV. THE DOWNFALL OF SAUL.

- A. While Saul is not remembered for many great feats of righteousness, he is remembered for several acts of unrighteousness.
 - 1. About two years after becoming king of Israel, Saul disobeyed the ordinances of God and made a presumptuous sacrifice. As a result, the loss of his kingdom was foretold. (I Sam. 13:14)
 - 2. In the same military conflict wherein Saul made a presumptuous sacrifice, he placed a foolish curse which fell upon Jonathan. (14:24,44)
 - 3. In the battle against the Amalekites, Saul disobeyed God's order to utterly destroy everyone and everything of the Amalekites. This resulted in the loss of Saul's kingdom. (I Sam. 15:28)
 - 4. Saul had lost fellowship with God. This lost fellowship was displayed in God's not answering Saul's prayer. (I Sam. 28:6)
 - 5. The day before Saul's death, Saul consulted a medium in hopes of contacting Samuel. God allowed Saul's request to be granted. Samuel foretold the death of Saul and his sons. (I Sam. 28:19)
 - 6. In his last battle with the Philistines, Saul was mortally wounded. So as not to die by the hands of his enemy, Saul took his own life. With this, the reign of Saul ended. (I Sam. 31:4,6)

CONCLUSION.

- A. The story of Saul is a sad tale. It is a tale of a man with humble beginnings who

allowed glory and pride to mislead him.

- B. We should learn the lesson of Saul, the lesson that teaches that no person is too good and too great to ignore the commands of the Lord. Remember the words of Samuel in I Samuel 15:22-23.

"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,

As in obeying the voice of the Lord?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

And to heed than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,

And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,

He also has rejected you from being king." (NKJV)

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by John Duvall - Lawton, OK