

# King Saul

[1 Samuel 15]

# 1 Sm.8 – Israel had the best King...ever

Israel wanted someone 'with skin on' –

<sup>1</sup>a man, <sup>2</sup>like other nations

a. Excuse: failure, sins of Samuel's sons, 8:1-4

[[Gn.17:6, 16 / Gn.49:10 / Dt.17:14-15]]

1. Refused to wait for God's timing
2. Worldly: 8:5, judge us like all the nations
3. Demanded fallible human leader
4. Ingratitude (7:12)

b. Desire: 8:5, 'like other nations' (8:19-22)

# 1 Samuel 9

- Saul, the farmer
- David, the shepherd
  - The difference: David believed
- a. Cast lots: God's selection for what? (8:5)
- b. Saul ... 10:20-22
- c. Tall Saul, 10:23-24 – 'none like him'

<sup>1</sup>Experienced leader?

<sup>2</sup>Famous general?

<sup>3</sup>Military tactician?

<sup>4</sup>Tall man in Canaan?

# Saul: tallest in Israel? Never the issue

- Nu.13:28-30, 32-33

Without God, physical size would matter

- Og: Dt.3:1...11
- Does not consider Goliath, 1 Sm.17:23-24

# God: the only absolutely Perfect King

- God is replaced by tall, but very flawed secular man
- Be careful what you ask for

1 Sm.13, **Saul had no use for God's ways**

- Samuel is absent, Saul will presume to make the offering. 13:13-14

1 Sm.16:7, **real issue concerns the heart**

1 Sm.15, **the real problem**

# I. Summary of 1 Sm.15

# 1: warning – follow instructions of God

## Utility passages in Israel

- Dt.4<sup>2</sup> You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
- Jer.10<sup>23</sup> O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.
- Mt.7<sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.



## 2: specific mission

- Clearly stated, simple: **utterly destroy Amalek**
  - Ex.17:8-16, Amalek, 400 years earlier
    - God knew what they did
    - He did not forget
    - He would punish
    - Hundreds of years later
  - Dt.25:17-19, God's mills grind slowly...
    - God does not ask Saul's opinion
    - Saul gets no vote

### 3: specific details

- Destroy every Amalekite, old and young

4-6: preparation: 210,000 soldiers

Avoid collateral damage

7-9: partial obedience is no obedience

- Gn.4, Cain
- Lv.10, sons of Aaron
- 2 Sm.6, Uzzah
- 1 Sm.15, Saul

8f.: Saul did much, but spared Agag / sheep

9: Saul did not utterly destroy all: only what was despised and worthless

Attitudes remain . . .

- Plan of salvation – faith alone...
- Worship – Lord's supper once a year...
- Work of church – social reform...
- Discipline – unheard of... (1 Co.5)

## 10-11: LORD'S regret

12: Saul's rejoicing – monument (based on pride, not gratitude); to honor himself...

13: Saul's delusion – disobedient, yet proud (2 Tim.3:2)

14: Samuel: . . . why do I hear sheep...?

15: Saul shifts blame – 'They' – Who is king?

1. Adam, Gn.3:12

2. Aaron, Ex.32:22f.

3. Pr.28:13, he who covers his sins will not prosper

“Because in sacrifice the flesh of another creature, but by obedience, our own wills are offered up to God”

– Trapp

20: Sa  
mo

21: people are

1. Who is
2. Who received this commission?
3. Vetoed by common people?

22-23: what is important?

- Rebellion often disguised as obedience
- Why is obedience better than sacrifice?

## 24-25: confession with an excuse

- I have sinned . . . but the people's fault
- I feared the people and obeyed their voice  
. . . now honor me

## 26-29: no cure for willful disobedience

**30:** Saul confesses again; “honor me now”

- Contrast . . .
  - David’s confession, 2 Sm.12
  - Prodigal to father, Lk.15
  - Tax collector, Lk.18
  - NT Saul, Ac.9; 1 Tim.1

## 31-33: Why does Samuel go back with Saul?

- Unfinished business – Agag
- Agag – the object lesson for Saul and Israel
- ...and for us – Hb.4:12

34:-35: Samuel went to Ramah; he would never counsel Saul again before he died.

- God has withdrawn from Saul. 16:1
- Jesus and Jerusalem – Mt.23:37...
- God gives up on some. Ro.1



I. Summary of 1 Sm.15

II. Things to Remember

1. It's important to pray that God's will, not ours, be done
2. Many start out in humility and end up in pride
3. We can choose our course:
  - Obey or disobey
  - But God is the Judge – Gn.18:25
4. Disobedience may seem pleasant at the time, but it always ends in disaster. Gn.3 still affects us. Ro.6:23