

Important Facets in the Life of King Saul

Saul is divinely selected to be Israel's king and anointed by Samuel. I Sam 9,10

Samuel tells Saul the Holy Spirit will come upon him, that he will be given gifts, and will prophecy. *These* confirmation signs came to pass. God gave him "another heart" and a group of men were touched by God and went with him. I Sam 10

Saul is led of the Spirit to protect Jabeshgilead, fought successfully against the Ammonites, and is made king. I Sam 11

Under pressure from the Philistines Saul failed to wait for Samuel and rashly offers a sacrifice himself. He is told his disobedience will cause him to lose the kingdom. I Sam 13.

Jonathan, Saul's son, leads a battle against the Philistines. Saul and Israel now fight also and win a *great victory*. *Saul rashly* decrees no one is to eat until the enemy is routed. Jonathan did not hear the decree and ate some honey. Saul declares he must die but he is rescued by the people. I Sam 14

Samuel tells Saul to destroy the Amalekites and their cattle. He fails to obey, saving king Agag alive and allowing the people to save the best animals. Samuel tells Saul his disobedience has cost him the kingdom. I Sam 15

Samuel anoints David to be king. The Holy Spirit comes upon him, but departed from Saul. A wicked spirit permitted by God troubles him. Saul asks that David stay with him as his musician so he will be comforted when distressed by demons. I Sam 16

David overcomes Goliath and demonstrates the life of *obedience*, discernment, and faith. I Sam 17

Saul is jealous of David, his victories, and his acceptance by the people. Saul knows the Lord is with David and is afraid of Him. When the demon attacks Saul he prophesies and tries to kill David. Saul gives David his daughter Michal. I Sam 18

David escapes Saul's attempt to kill him. Saul searches for him and comes upon Samuel and prophets who are prophesying. The Holy Spirit comes upon Saul and he also prophesies. I Sam 19

Saul attempts to get Jonathan to kill, David. He loves David and refuses to do so. I Sam 20

David hides from Saul but is betrayed by Doeg an Edomite who kills the 85 of the priests for helping David.- I Sam 21,22

David is pursued by Saul and his army. Twice David spares Saul's life who acknowledges his fault before David and, the people. I Sam 23-27

Samuel is dead. The Philistines threaten war against Saul and Israel. Because God does not answer Saul he consults a witch and asks to speak to Samuel. Samuel speaks to Saul and tells him he lost the kingdom by disobedience, that the Philistines will win the battle,, and that Saul and his sons would die the next day. I Sam 28 It is explained that Saul died for his disobedience, not seeking God, but seeking help from a witch. I Chron. 10:13,14

Observations Regarding the Life of King Saul

Introduction:

A. *Saul had great benefits and honors.*

Chosen by God
Made king to serve under God
Made king over the Theocracy
Anointed by and with the Holy Spirit
Given Samuel to guide him
Given Ahithopel as his priest
Given the ark of God
Given the privilege to ask God for guidance
Given unusual promises and verification
Given an anointed son in Jonathan
Given the acceptance by the people
Given great victories over his enemies
Given David to help him
Given clear cut warnings

B. Saul depended more on these external benefits for his strength, wisdom, and protection, than upon his own personal relationship and walk with God.

C. However, when Saul made up his mind, he avoided the benefit of the above and dogmatically, proudly and rebelliously did what he wanted to do.

I. Saul allowed circumstances to dictate his actions.

A. When under pressure from the Philistines

1. He offered the sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel. I Sam 13:9-14
2. He rashly decreed no one was to eat until the battle was won. I Sam 14:24
3. He was more willing to kill Jonathan than confess his faults. I Sam 14:38-45
4. He asked counsel from a witch. I Sam 28, I Chron. 10:13,14

B. Because of his dogmatism and pride (I Sam 15:17)

1. He refused to acknowledge that he had lost the kingdom. I Sam 18:12ff
2. He tried to kill David on numerous occasions. I Sam 18:10,11ff
3. He wasted years seeking David. I Sam 19ff
4. He permits Doeg to kill 85 innocent priests as well as many men, women, children and cattle in their city of Nob. I Sam 22:9-19.
5. He attempts to influence his son Jonathan to kill David. I Sam 20ff

II. Saul had more fear of the people than of God. I Sam 15:15,21,24

III. Saul substituted religious words for spiritual actions. I Sam 15:15,24

IV. Saul substituted things (animals) as sacrifices to God when the real sacrifice was to be himself as displayed in obedience. I Sam 15:15,20,21-23

V. Saul was too much in control sinfully, but almost always out of control spiritually. I Sam 15:22,23