

“Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul’s head and kissed him, saying, “Has not the Lord anointed you leader over his inheritance?” – 1 Samuel 10:1

“But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel.” – 1 Samuel 15:26

1. Saul is Anointed and Proclaimed as King (Chapter 10)

- a. Samuel pours oil from a flask on Saul’s head and anoints him.
 - i. Tells him that the lord has anointed him to be prince over his people Israel.
 - ii. That he will reign over the people of the Lord and will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies.
- b. He goes on to give him very precise details that are to be the sign that the Lord has anointed him prince (see 10:2-8).
- c. Gibeah
 - i. Saul’s hometown – 10:26.
 - ii. The location of the Levite and concubine fiasco from Judges 19.
 - iii. Location of a Philistine outpost – 10:5.
- d. V7 – “Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.”
 - i. What is the meaning of “do whatever your hand finds to do”?
 1. See also Judges 9:33
 - ii. The Philistine outpost!
- e. 10:9 – all of these signs came to pass, God gave him another heart.
- f. 10:10 he meets the prophets and the Spirit of God rushed upon him and he prophesied.
 - i. Those that knew him asked “what’s up with Saul?”
- g. 10:13 – after he finished prophesying, he went to the high place.
 - i. He did not “do what his hand found to do.” Which was to attack the Philistine garrison (a military post).
 - ii. He goes and sees his uncle.
 - iii. No mention of being anointed king of Israel – no mention of Samuel prophesying all of these little details that all came true.
- h. Samuel calls the people together at Mizpah
 - i. Lectures them again about rejecting their God and asking for a king.
 - ii. They come forward by tribe, clan, and family until Saul is selected
 - iii. Note the similarity to the calling out of Achan in Joshua.
 - iv. They can’t find Saul because he is hiding behind the baggage.
 - a. God tells them where he is.
 - v. Saul is called out (it’s mentioned how tall he is again).
 - vi. Samuel says this is your king and the people respond, “long live the king.”

2. Saul Calls Together Israel and Defeats the Ammonites (Chapter 11)

- a. The Ammonites go up against Jabesh Gilead led by Nahash.
- b. Jabesh Gilead
 - i. Judges 20-21
 - ii. Jabesh Gilead gets a reprieve for 7 days to see if they can muster up support from Israel.
 - iii. How will the new king of Israel respond?
- c. The word goes out and makes it to Gibeah where Saul is.
 - i. The Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words and he was angry.
 - ii. He takes two oxen and cuts them up (very much like the Levite in Judges 19) and sends the pieces around to Israel telling them that anyone who doesn’t show up to help will be made like the oxen.

- iii. All of Israel came together as one man at Bezek (much like they came together as one man to confront Gibeah back in Judges).
- iv. They throw the smack down on the Ammonites the next day.
- v. Samuel tells the people to all go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom.
- vi. They all go to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord.
- vii. Saul and all the men of Israel (Samuel is not mentioned) rejoiced greatly.

3. Samuel Gets It Off His Chest (Chapter 12)

- a. Samuel asks Israel to call him out on any area that he has been unjust or acted wrongly.
 - i. They cannot.
- b. Samuel recounts for them how the Lord has been with them.
- c. Then calls them out saying, “you asked me for a king when the Lord your God was king over you, and now, behold, the Lord has set a king over you.”
 - i. Samuel tells them that both they *and the king* must follow the Lord and obey him and not rebel.
 - ii. Everything has changed, yet nothing has changed.
- d. Samuel calls out to God (it is wheat harvest this day) and God sends down thunder and rain.
 - i. The people acknowledge their sin in asking for a king 12:19.

4. Philistines Intimidate the Israelites and Saul Offers Unlawful Sacrifices (Chapter 13)

- a. Jonathan attacks the Philistine outpost at Geba and the Philistines get all stirred up.
 - i. Note the corollary here back to chapter 10 when Saul *should* have attacked the Philistine outpost at Gibeah which would have stirred up the Philistines for battle.
- b. Saul informs all of Israel of the successful attack at Geba and calls them out to join him at Gilgal.
- c. Philistines show up – big time.
- d. The people of Israel freak out and start hiding and fleeing, Saul gets impatient waiting for Samuel to show up.
 - i. He offers sacrifices to God.
 - ii. Samuel shows up and rebukes Saul for disobeying God – not trusting God.
 - iii. Samuel tells him that he will no longer be the king – that God has sought one after his own heart.

5. Saul's Vow of Fasting & A Convoluted Mess Involving Jonathan (Chapter 14)

- a. Jonathan musters up his faith and takes his armor bearer with him into the Philistines' camp.
 - i. 14:6 is a good expression of Jonathan's faith – that God will work with many or he will work with few (two in this case!).
- b. The Lord delivers the Philistine garrison into the hands of Jonathan and his armor bearer.
 - i. They strike down ~20 and put the Philistines into panic.
 - ii. The earth quakes.
- c. Saul sees the ruckus in the Philistine camp and they decide to go in and attack after discovering that Jonathan and his armor bearer are missing.
 - i. Verse 23 - so the *Lord saved Israel* that day.
- d. Saul declares a time of fasting that no one is to eat until the enemy is avenged.
 - i. Jonathan breaks the fast (unknowingly), is called out, and replies that it was a dumb order.
- e. They strike down the Philistines that day from Micmash to Aijalon and the people were faint – break their fast, eating sheep and oxen and calves with the blood.
- f. A weird tangled plot here about the sin and Saul trying to figure out who did what.

- g. Saul ultimately finds out that Jonathan started this mess by eating the honey.
 - i. So Saul declares that Jonathan must die.
 - ii. But the people say “no” and ransom Jonathan.

6. The Lord Rejects Saul (Chapter 15)

- a. Samuel comes to Saul and gives him a word from the Lord telling him to go down and lay waste to Amalek – reminiscent of the attack on Jericho back in Judges.
- b. They defeat the Amalekites.
 - i. But they took Agag the king (did not kill him) and also all of the best sheep and oxen and calves and lambs – “all that was good” they did not destroy.
- c. God speaks to Samuel and says:
 - i. “I regret (NIV grieve) that I made Samuel king.”
 - ii. Samuel gets angry and cries all night (see 15:10-11).
- d. Samuel and Saul meet
 - i. Samuel and Saul meet and Saul is sounding proud and states that he fulfilled his end of the deal:
 - 1. Verse 13 – “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.”
- e. Samuel asks what the heck the bleating of the sheep is all about.
 - i. Saul’s pathetic response (15:15).
 - ii. Notice the pronouns used.
- f. Samuel says “stop” and calls out Saul – repeating God’s words stating that Saul failed to obey.
 - i. See 15:16-21
 - ii. To obey is better than to sacrifice.
 - iii. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.
- g. Saul cracks and tells Samuel that he has sinned and that he feared the people and obeyed their voice (in contrast to obeying God’s voice).
- h. Saul asks for forgiveness, but Samuel simply says that God has rejected him as king and that God has chosen another – one better than Saul.
 - i. Saul responds in 15:30-31 (again, note the pronouns).
- i. Samuel then kills Agag.
- j. Repeated again: The Lord regretted (or grieved) that he had made Saul king over Israel.

7. For Next Time:

- a. Read 1 Samuel 16-31 (i.e. the rest of 1 Samuel).
 - i. Take some notes, journal, make an outline – do something extra. Don’t *just* do the reading.
 - 1. What stands out to you?
 - 2. What troubles you?
 - 3. What don’t you understand, but feel compelled to?
 - ii. Compare and contrast David and Saul.
 - 1. How are we introduced to each (refer back to prior chapters regarding Saul)?
 - 2. What descriptions are given of each?
 - iii. You’ve heard or read the story of David and Goliath a million times. What stands out to you this time?
 - 1. How has God spoken to you through this account this time?
 - 2. Do you find it challenging, comforting, frightening? Why?
 - iv. Pay special attention to the relationship between David and Jonathan.

OT History – Part 11: Saul's Reign and Fall

1. Keep in mind that Jonathan would be the natural heir to the throne (being Saul's son).
2. What can we learn about friendship from this relationship?
3. Do you have a David/Jonathan relationship in your life?
- v. Saul basically commits suicide at the end of 1 Samuel.
 1. How does this act reflect his heart and character?

8. Class Handouts, etc Available Online:

- a. I'm making all of the handouts, etc available online at:
 - i. www.toddsmindblogger.wordpress.com