1 - **When Israel Demanded A King… 1 Samuel Chapters 8 - 16**

**2 - Written For Our Instruction & Warning…**

Romans 15:4, *“For whatever was written in* ***earlier times*** *was written* ***for our instruction****, so that through* ***perseverance*** *and the* ***encouragement of the scriptures*** *we might have hope.”*

* + Focus on the examples of persevering faith.

1 Corinthians 10:11, *“Now these things* (note vs. 1-10) *happened to them* ***as an example****, and they were* ***written for our instruction****, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.* ***THEREFORE******let him who stands take heed*** *that he does not fall.”*

* Focus on the mistakes God’s people made.

**4 - Context of King Saul**

* For over 300 years, God used “**Judges**” to turn His people back to Him and the Law.
* God’s people had failed to “**expand the borders of the kingdom**” that God had given to them, allowing enemies to remain.
* **Philistines** one of those nations allowed to remain who persisted as a thorn in their side. (1 Samuel 4-8)

**5 - King Saul**

The request:

**Samuel had *“grown old”*** (8:5) so ***“appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”***

Samuel understood the request and it was **“*displeasing*”** in his sight.

God told Samuel that it wasn’t a rejection of his leadership but Gods and was another example of them **“*forsaking*” God. (8:7-8)**

**6 - King Saul**

**1st King of Israel (?)**

How did this come about?

**God was to be their King**! (1 Samuel 8:7; 10:19; 12:12; cf., Deuteronomy 17:14-17 (note also vs. 18-19); 1 Timothy 1:17)

Yet they “***rejected***” God from reigning over them and sought sovereignty **like the nations around them**. (1 Sam. 8:5, 20; Leviticus 20:23; Jeremiah 10:2)

7 - **King Saul**

**God chose Saul to be King after His people rejected His reign.**

* **Why did God choose Saul? (9:17)** 
  + **God “*gave them over*”** (Romans 1:28) to the type of king the nations around them had so they could “*do those things which are not proper.*”
  + Based on eternal factors. **Saul looked the part!**
  + **God gave them a king who would seek his own good and not theirs. (1 Samuel 8:10ff)**

8 **- King Saul**

**Why did the Israelites want a king?**

1. **To be like all the other nations.**
   * They were warned to drive out completely. (Exodus 34:10-17; Deut. 7:1-6; Joshua 23:12-13)
2. **That he may judge us.**
   * God was their judge. (Judges 11:27, 1 Samuel 24:15)
3. **To go out before us and fight our battles.**
   * Had not God been fighting for them?   
     (Exodus 14:13-14; Deuteronomy 1:30; 3:22; Joshua 10:42; 23:3)

9 - **King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 13**

Philistines assembled to fight with a vast army (vs. 5) and fear takes hold. (vs. 6-7)

Told to wait 7 days for Samuel at Gilgal. (vs. 8; 10:8)

As the people are ***“scattering from him”*** (vs. 8), Saul offered sacrifices to ask God’s favor. (vs. 10)

Samuel came and asked, “***what have you done****?*” (vs. 11)

Saul blamed *“****the people****”* who were scattering and **Samuel** who “*did not come within the appointed days*”. (vs. 12; But he did!)

10 - **King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 13**

Saul, “***I forced myself (felt compelled***; NKJV)…” (vs. 12)

Samuel, “***you have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God…***”(vs. 13) and *“your kingdom shall not endure.* ***The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart****.”* (vs. 14)

11 - **King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 13**

We need to learn:

1. **To walk by faith and not by sight. *“Because I saw…”***(2 Corinthians 4:18; 5:7)
2. **Don’t make excuses**!
   * ***“They all began to make excuses… for this reason…***” (Luke 14:20)
3. **The need to wait for the Lord**. (Psalms 25:4-5; 27:11-14; 40:1-3; 69:1-3; Isaiah 25:9; Philippians 3:20)
4. **Know our place**. (2 Chronicles 26:18)

12 - **King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 15**

Again, Samuel gave instructions to Saul to ***“utterly destroy”*** the Amalekites. (vs. 3)

Saul and the Israelites defeated the Amalekites and “***utterly destroyed***” everything **except**… the **king** and *“all* ***that was good****”*

Saul claimed to have ***“carried out the command of the Lord”***. (vs. 13)

God & Samuel grieved over Saul’s disobedience. (Genesis 6:6-7)

13 - **King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 15**

Samuel goes to Saul who says, “Blessed are you of the Lord! I have carried out the command of the Lord!” (vs. 13)

Samuel’s response: *“What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”* (vs. 14)

Saul’s excuses:

1. Blamed others: “***The people spared the best***…” (Ex. 32:22)
2. Substantial compliance - “…*but* ***the rest*** *we… utterly destroyed*”
3. Good intentions: ***“…to sacrifice to the Lord…”***

The problem was they were ***“unwilling to destroy them utterly”*** (vs. 9)

14 - **King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 15**

***“Wait!”*** - to refrain and be quiet… he had said enough. When confronted with sin, God looks for the humble heart that acknowledges sin in its’ totality. (2 Samuel 12:13; Psalms 51)

***“Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord…?”*** (vs. 19)

*“****I did obey the voice of the Lord****,* ***and went on the mission****… but* ***the people*** *took… to* ***sacrifice to the Lord*** *your God at Gilgal.”* (vs. 21)

15 - **King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 15**

*“Has the Lord as much 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 divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.”*(1 Samuel 15:22-23)

**16 - King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 15**

**Saul confessed but never repented (sorrow was not according to the will of God; 2** Corinthians 7:9-11)…

… And never lost the focus on himself and his pride. (15:24-30; note vs. 12)

A sad ending… (15:34-35; 1 Chronicles 10:4; & note 1 Sam. 28:6 and how *“the Lord did not answer”* Saul any more)

**17 – King Saul’s Sins - 1 Samuel 15**

**Lessons to be learned:**

1. **Substantial obedience isn’t obedience at all. (“Pretty faithful”?)**
2. **We must humbly acknowledge and repent of all our sins. (Psalms 32:3-5)**
3. **Our thoughts are not God’s thoughts. (Proverbs 16:25)**

**18 - God’s Chosen King**

***“A man after God’s own heart…”* - (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:21-22)**

**Psalms 2:6; *“But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.”***

**In contrast to Saul, David didn’t look the part. Neither did God’s Son Jesus Christ! (Isaiah 53:2-3)**

**19 - Who Is Our King?**

***“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”* (1 Timothy 1:17)**

**What does that mean or require of us?**

* + **We submit to His rule and those He has sent.**
  + **We give reverence and respect to Him who sits on the throne.**
  + **Serve Him faithfully and lovingly.**
  + **Seek His compassion and forgiveness.**