

Pastor's Bible Study

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Week Twenty-Four 1 Samuel 8-15

Review

Literary Period Covered: 1070 - 1010 B.C.E.

Review

We concluded with God responding to His people's repentance by raising up Samuel as the 14th and last Judge. God honored Samuel's faithfulness by giving him victory over the Philistines (7:7–13a). Samuel commemorated the victory by erecting a stone at the site. He named it "Ebenezer" (stone of help), saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us" (7:12). We ended with Samuel spending his life serving the LORD as an itinerant judge, priest and prophet (7:13b–17). Though Samuel was a righteous judge and faithful servant we will see his sons become like the sons of Eli the took bribes and perverted justice. We ended our session with the Israelites understanding:

- **God is not Israel's Trophy**
- **God opposes Pride**
- **Israel must remain Humble**

Samuel the 14th judge is a righteous ruler, but his sons are not

Lecture Segment

1 Samuel 8-15



In today's lesson we see Israel's disappointment with the priesthood of Eli and the sin of Samuel's sons. This sin will lead Israel to turn to a new form of leadership. The people, following the example of the nations around them, demanded a king (1 Sam 8). God granted their desires, and Samuel reluctantly appointed a king (1 Sam 9–10). Saul's reign had a promising beginning (1 Sam 11). King Saul, however, proved unlike Samuel because he did not listen to the word of the LORD (1 Sam 13–15). The LORD thus rejected Saul as he had the house of Eli.

8:1–22 God Permits a King

The people requested a king because Samuel's judgeship had begun to fail. He was old; and his sons, like Eli's, were wicked men who perverted justice. Also, the people wanted the benefits of a central authority like the other

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nations had (8:1–5). Although Samuel resisted, God graciously permitted Israel to have a king (8:6–9). Samuel warned the people of the troubles of kingship, but they persisted; so God granted their request (8:10–22).

He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights:

1. He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots.
2. ¹² Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties,
3. and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest,
4. and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.
5. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.
6. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants.
7. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants.
8. ¹⁶ Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle^[c] and donkeys he will take for his own use.
9. ¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves.



Yielding to the command of God rather than to the will of the people, Samuel looked about for the man whom he should appoint as king. So, comes Saul into the biblical story. He was the younger son of a chief of the tribe of Benjamin, an energetic, capable youth, of huge stature, towering head and shoulders over ordinary men. His father had lost some asses, so Saul went with a servant searching for them through the mountains. Led by the divine guidance, he came to the city of Samuel, and learning of the prophet's presence, resolved to consult him about the lost animals.

A head taller than anyone else, Saul looked the part!

Dockery, D. S., ed. (1992). Holman Bible Handbook (p. 226). Holman Bible Publishers.

Dockery, D. S., ed. (1992). Holman Bible Handbook (pp. 226–227). Holman Bible Publishers.



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Saul's pride and desire for economic gain fueled his continued disobedience. Saul went so far as to build a monument for himself (15:12). The LORD "grieved" (15:11, 35) that he had made Saul king over Israel. The LORD instructed Saul by the prophet Samuel to put to death the Amalekites and all their possessions because of their past sins (15:1-6; compare the law of holy war, Deut 20:16-18). Saul, however, permitted Agag, the Amalekite king, and the best of the spoil to live. The LORD rejected Saul because of his sin, and Samuel wept for him (15:7-11).

When Samuel confronted Saul with his sins (15:12-19), Saul tried to justify his actions by explaining that he wanted to make a sacrifice of the spoil to the LORD (15:20-21). Saul had failed to learn that God does not accept ritual without obedience (15:22-23). Samuel refused to support Saul any longer because God had torn away his kingdom (15:24-31). Samuel himself executed Agag in accordance with the LORD'S command. Samuel, as the prophet of God, never advised Saul again (15:32-34; compare 19:24; 28:11).

Conclusion

What's going to happen to Saul and Israelites?

- He's afraid of his own men
- He backs down when confronted
- Though he started out ok, he does not have the heart of a king
- The Philistines are growing stronger and he does not know what to do

Next time we will see a young man with heart for step in to defeat the Philistines

Scripture for next week

Read 1 Samuel 16-20

Dockery, D. S., ed. (1992). Holman Bible Handbook (p. 229). Holman Bible Publishers.

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