

DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Pastor's Bible Study 2019

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Episode 3: The Rise of Saul

I Samuel 8:1-12:25

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And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. (1 Samuel 9:2 NKJ)

I. ISRAEL'S DEMAND FOR A KING AND SAMUEL'S WARNING

- A. The logic (8:1-5): The people request a king because Samuel is old, his sons are corrupt, and the surrounding nations have kings.
- B. The lamentation (8:6-9): This request upsets Samuel, but the Lord assures him that the people are rejecting God, not him.
- C. The liabilities (8:10-22): Samuel explains the consequences of allowing a king to rule over them.
 - i. *The review* (8:10-18): A king will force military service and slave labor upon their sons and daughters and impose heavy taxes on them.

PROBLEMS (WARNED BY SAMUEL)	Reference	Fulfillment
Drafting young men into the army	8:11-12	14:52-"So whenever Saul saw a young man who was brave and strong, he drafted him into his army."
Having the young men "run before his chariots"	8:11	2 Samuel 15:1-"Absalom bought a chariot and horses, and he hired fifty footmen to run ahead of him."
Making slave laborers	8:12, 17	2 Chronicles 2:17-18-Solomon assigned laborers to build the temple.
Taking the best of your fields and vineyards	8:14	1 Kings 21:5-16-Jezebel stole Naboth's vineyard
Using your property for his personal gain	8:14-16	1 Kings 9:10-14-Solomon gave away 20 cities to Hiram of Tyre.
Demanding a tenth of your harvest and flocks	8:15, 17	1 Kings 12:1-16-Rehoboam was going to demand heavier taxation than Solomon.

- ii. *The refusal* (8:19-22): In spite of Samuel's warning, the people still demand a king

II. A KING IS CHOSEN: SAUL'S ANNOINTING (9:3-27)

- a. Saul is sent by his father to locate some donkeys that have strayed; he does not find them. (9:6-13): One of Saul's servants advises him to ask a seer concerning the whereabouts of the lost donkeys. (9:14-16): In the meantime, the Lord tells Samuel that he is sending a

man from the tribe of Benjamin to become Israel's first king. (9:17-27): As Saul approaches Samuel to ask where the seer lives, the Lord tells Samuel that this is the man who will be king.

- i. He will save the people from the Philistines (9:16)
 - ii. He shall “restrain” the people (9:17). Ominous. Related to Samuel’s warnings about the king.— Hebrew (*‘ā-šār*) “stop,” “hold back,” “enslave.”
- b. Samuel's assurance (9:17-20): Samuel tells Saul that the missing donkeys have been found and that he is the focus of Israel's hopes! Saul finds this difficult to believe, pointing out that he comes from an unimportant family from Benjamin, Israel's smallest tribe. (9:17-21) Just before Saul leaves, Samuel anoints him as the next king of Israel. (10:1-27) The proof Samuel anoints Saul and tells him that several signs will demonstrate that he has indeed been chosen as Israel's king. (10:1-12):
- i. *The music of some prophets* (10:5): Saul will meet some prophets coming down from a hill and playing music.
 - ii. *The ministry of the Spirit* (10:6-7): The Spirit of the Lord will come upon Saul and cause him to prophesy with the prophets.
 1. Transformation: ⁶*Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.* ¹
 2. The promise of success: ⁷*Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you.* ²
 - iii. Saul's prophetic experience so amazes his friends that they create a proverbial expression "Is Saul a prophet?"
- c. (10:13-16) When Saul returns from his trip, his uncle asks him where he has been. Saul does not mention being anointed king of Israel.
- d. (10:17-25) At Mizpah Samuel introduces Saul to the people as their king, although Saul must be brought out from his hiding place among the baggage!
- i. Not an encouraging introduction: ¹⁹*But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands.* ³
 - ii. Not insulting Saul personally, but chastising Israel.
 - iii. You wanted a King—You got it! *“The sin is the sentence.”*
- e. Everything you could want in a king
- i. He was rich (from a good family)
 - ii. He was good-looking (There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. (9:2)
 - iii. He was huge. Saul's height (physical stature) was impressive. (9:2, 10:23)
 - iv. He was filled with the Spirit. He was religious (and a little bit crazy)
 - v. He was confirmed by anointing and by “lot.” (10:21—God told Samuel and the bones proved it)
 - vi. And yet he was scared to be king (he didn't tell his father; 10:16), and hid in the baggage!
- f. (10:26-27): Some support Saul; others (“worthless fellows”) oppose him and refuse to bring him gifts.

III. EARLY SUCCESS (11:1-15): Through military victory and a second coronation, Saul's kingship is affirmed.

- a. The crisis (11:1-11) A cruel Ammonite king named Nahash surrounds the Israelite town

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (1 Sa 10:6). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

² *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (1 Sa 10:7). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

³ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (1 Sa 10:19). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

of Jabesh-gilead. When the people ask for a peace treaty, he demands they allow him to gouge out the right eye of every citizen! The elders ask for seven days to see if they can find someone to rescue them. Upon learning of this, a furious and Spirit-filled Saul sends out a call to arms and gathers an army to fight against Nahash. Saul and his army destroy Nahash's forces and save Jabesh-gilead.

- b. The confirmation (11:12-15): Saul has now proven his ability to reign and is reconfirmed as king by Samuel and the people at Gilgal.

IV. SAMUEL'S FAREWELL SPEECH (12:1-25) Samuel reviews the faithfulness that has been shown to Israel by himself and the Lord.

- a. The History of Israel: The Lord's track record.
- b. The choice (12:14-15): ⁴*If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well. ¹⁵*But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king.*⁴
 - i. Both King and People: Obeying the Lord will bring good things. Even the King is subject to God and must be obedient.
 - ii. Forsaking the Lord will bring punishment.
 - iii. The confirmation (12:16-25): The Lord displays his disapproval of the people's desire for a king by sending loud thunder and heavy rain. Samuel urges the people to sincerely worship the Lord only. (Foreshadowing)
 - iv. ²⁴*Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. ²⁵But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.*⁵*

⁴ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (1 Sa 12:14–15). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

⁵ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (1 Sa 12:24–25). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.