I) V1-2 INTRO: Saul reigned one year and when he had reigned two years over Israel
This seems to be speaking of events within the first two years of his reign
Saul began to rule in a time when Israel was involved in small wars

II) Within his first 2 years, Saul fought against the Philistines and the Ammonites

III) In chapter 11 Saul rallied the nation to battle against ***the Ammonites***
In this chapter we see Israel battle against their oppressors, ***the Philistines***

IV) V2 Saul chose for himself ***three thousand*** men of Israel. Two thousand were with
At the end of the war against the Ammonites, Saul chose these men for security
These men were in addition to the men who had vowed to serve him

V) When Samuel installed Saul as king, some rejected him but others followed him
1 Sa 10:26 Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant men went with him whose hearts God had touched

KEY

VI) The selection of valiant men for security and battle became a habit of his
1 Sa 14:52 When Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself

VII) V2 He kept 2,000 with him in Michmash, which was around 7 miles NE of Jerusalem
It is a hilly area, and Saul stationed them to keep the Philistines from advancing
The other 1,000 were placed under Jonathan ***in Gibeah***, a few miles south
The rest of the people were sent home

VIII) V3-4 Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba and the
This is the first mention of Saul's eldest son, Jonathan

IX) He is a courageous man, and will be seen as a military commander
He was a man of exceptional moral character and loyalty

X) It is interesting to note that Jonathan and David had a deep and loving friendship
David was about 20-30 years younger than Jonathan, but was a great friend
We will see that Jonathan showed great loyalty to David
1 Sa 18:1 tells us that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan love him as his own soul

I) When Jonathan died, David wrote a song of sorrow, which included Jonathan
2 Sa 1:25-26 How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places. I a distressed for you my brother Jonathan; you have been very pleasant to me; your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women

II) Geba was 1 1/2 miles SW of Michmash, and had a garrison of Philistines there
A garrison is a unit of around 50 soldiers
They were specialized troops with the duty of defending a specified zone

III) Here we see how Jonathan was a warrior, attacking the garrison of the Philistines
Jonathan was obviously brave, and he launched an attack on the garrison

IV) V3 and the Philistines heard of it
After he attacked the garrison, the Philistines rallied their troops to attack Israel

V) V3 Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land saying let the Hebrews hear
Saul blows the trumpet, sounding an alarm, to assemble the troops of Israel
His desire was for all the nation to hear what had taken place, and to rally to him

VI) He had to summon the Israelites to war after having recently sent them home

VII) V4 All Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines
NOTICE

VIII) It was Jonathan who led the fighting, *but Saul took the credit*
KEY

IX) This gives us *insight into Saul:* he was self-seeking, blowing his own trumpet
This reveals an insight into his lack of character

X) He needed attention, and even used his own son to gain it
He needed to hear his own name proclaimed and respected by the people
APPLICATION

XI) When we truly serve the Lord, receiving personal attention is not important
Man's attention is temporary, but God's attention has eternal value

XII) There are those who say: If you don't promote yourself, *no one else will*
Ps 75:6-7 Exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge; He puts down one, and exalts another

I) It is always best to simply do your work and let God take care of any notice
Pr 27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

II) Be careful not to seek the attention of man
Become a team player, sit the bench and be ready to play when given opportunity

III) V5 The Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots
A hornet's nest was stirred up, and the Philistines respond to Jonathan's attack
His attack prompted a massive Philistine military build-up in Israel

IV) Chariots were like our modern-day tanks
They terrified foot soldiers, were mobile and extremely fast
They used iron, which was an advanced metal that was stronger than bronze

V) V6-7 When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger for the people were
When they saw the size of their military and chariots they began to desert
They began hiding wherever they could

VI) Some went east, and crossed the Jordan River into the regions of Gad and Gilead
Others remained, but they were in no position to fight: they were petrified

VII) V8-10 Then he waited seven days according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel
This is a continuation of what had been broken off in chapter 10
1 Sa 10:8 You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and ***surely I will come down to you*** to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. ***Seven days you shall wait,*** till I come to you and show you what you should do
KEY

VIII) When Samuel had not arrived, ***Saul took charge*** and began making the offerings
IMPORTANT

IX) The problem isn't that he couldn't offer a sacrifice because he wasn't a priest
Offering this sacrifice was not in and of itself wrong

X) Later on we have an example of David offering up sacrifice
2 Sa 24:25 David built there an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

I) ***What was wrong*** was that he took it upon himself to do so out of ***a lack of faith***
He had been told ***to wait seven days***, but was not willing to do so

II) Samuel had said, ***surely I will come down to you*** to offer the sacrifices

III) ***Samuel*** hadn't arrived, so he took matters into his own hands
The enemy was terrifying, the people were scattering, and he panicked

IV) This revealed partial obedience, not to mention unbelief and impetuosity
V9 Saul said bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me!
In doing this, Saul disobeyed the command that he had been given

V) By doing this he usurped the position of Samuel, a prophet and a priest
He didn't understand that his kingship was under to authority of God

VI) In offering the sacrifice he overstepped his authority as king
It was taking upon himself the position of spiritual leader and undermining order

VII) He was trying to rally the troops with a religious action
At the heart of the action was not true faith, but religious symbolism
It was a religious work done in unbelief and disobedience

VIII) V10 It happened ***as soon as he had finished*** presenting the burnt offering that
Divine timing: Samuel walks up just as Saul is making the burnt offering
KEY

IX) A burnt offering is a symbol of absolute, total dedication to God

X) V11 And Samuel said What have you done Saul said When I saw that the people
HOW YOU RESPOND REVEALS YOUR FAITH

XI) V11-12 Saul said when I saw that the people ***were scattered from me***, and that you
It is your fault that I did this: the people were scattering while you took your time

XII) I am in the real world, battling, while you are doing whatever it is that you do!

XIII) V12 Therefore I felt compelled (I forced myself) and offered a burnt offering
I knew I shouldn't but my necessity urged me to do it
It felt like it was the right thing to do!

I) V13 Samuel said You have done foolishly You have not kept the commandment
Again, he had commanded Saul to wait for seven days (10:8)

II) This was not something Samuel determined, but was a command from God

III) Saul took the command lightly, and when under pressure, he acted
In his taking control of the situation, he disregarded God's express command
This act of disobedience revealed his true character: he was

IV) V14 But now your kingdom shall not continue The Lord has sought for Himself
This was not regarded lightly, but was sufficient for him to lose the kingdom
APPLICATION

V) The majority today, including Christians would have difficulty with this
They would disagree with God's decision, and call Him harsh and intolerant
Saul was under pressure, and felt it necessary to be decisive and to act

VI) For many, their own instincts are to be trusted outside of any outside influences
I read a survey that stated 71% of adults surveyed set their own religious beliefs ignoring what scripture says and 61% of those claiming to be "born again" agree

VII) Saul reacted under the pressure of the moment
By doing so he rejected what God had specifically commanded

VIII) In doing this, what was on the inside was revealed on the outside:
His sinful nature revealed itself in faithless disobedience
APPLICATION

IX) Our desire to obey what God says in His word reveals our spiritual condition
When you truly love the Lord, your desire will be to do what He says
Dt 30:20 Love the LORD your God… obey His voice… cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days
Jn 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments

X) V14 But now *your kingdom shall not continue*. The Lord has sought for Himself a
Saul initially appeared to start well, but he never sought the Lord completely
1 Sa 15:22 Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

I) V14 The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart
There was a young man named David who was already being prepared by God
Ac 13:22 (Paul said) When He had removed (Saul), He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, `I have found ***David the son of Jesse***, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

APPLICATION

II) When one man proves unqualified, God always has someone in the wings
The Lord had someone to take Saul's place years before it actually occurred

III) According to Acts 13:21 Saul was king for around 40 years
According to 2 Sa 5:4-5 David became king when he was thirty
At this time he may have been a young boy

INTERESTINGLY

IV) Though Israel regarded him as king, he was rejected throughout his reign
He was literally a Dead Man Walking throughout his time as king

V) The bible makes it clear that God intended to give a king to Israel
He was preparing the true king, who was yet to be able to take the position

VI) David would eventually be placed in the position of receiving the kingdom

VII) V15-16 Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin And Saul
This was 10 miles West
There Saul numbered his troops, and was hit with the fact that he was doomed!
His troops had all deserted, and he was left without a military

VIII) V17-18 Raiders (destroyers) Special Forces set out to punish Benjamin
Some went 5 mi. NW, others went to the east, the other went to the southeast

IX) V19-23 here was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel
They were incapable of fighting them, as they had no weapons

X) These were highly skilled fighting men facing an army of men with farming tools
They set out to watch Saul's rag tag army, never expecting any trouble from them

THEY MADE ONE MISTAKE

XI) They did not know about Jonathan, and the courage that comes through faith