

- I) **V1 INTRO: Saul reigned one year and when he had reigned two years over Israel**
 - a) **V1-7 SEEM TO BE: Speaking of events that took place within the first two years of his reign**
 - b) **KEY: Within the first two years, Saul fought against the Ammonites as well as the Philistines**

- II) **WE SAW: In chapter 11 how Saul rallied the nation of Israel to battle against the Ammonites**
 - a) **In this chapter, we will see Israel battle against their oppressors, the Philistines**

- III) **V2 SAUL: Chose for himself three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul**
 - a) **At the end of the war against the Ammonites, Saul selected these men as a security force**
 - 1) **These men were in addition to the valiant men who had vowed to serve him (10:26)**

- IV) **KEY: This became a habit of his**
 - a) **1 Sa 14:52 When Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself**

- V) **HE KEPT 2,000: With him in a place called Michmash, which was around 7 miles NE of Jerusalem**
 - a) **It is a hilly area, and Saul put these troops in that area to keep the Philistines from advancing**
 - 1) **The other 1,000 were placed under his son Jonathan's command in Gibeah, a few miles south**
 - 2) **The rest of the people were sent home**

- VI) **V3-4 AND JONATHAN: Attacked the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba and the Philistines**
 - a) **Geba was 1 1/2 miles SW of Michmash, and had a garrison of Philistines there (50+ soldiers)**
 - 1) **A garrison is a unit of specialized troops with the duty of defending a specified zone**
 - 2) **Jonathan obviously was a brave soldier, and he launched an attack on the garrison**

- VII) **AFTER JONATHAN: Attacked the garrison, the Philistines rallied their troops to attack Israel**
 - a) **A hornet's nest was stirred up, and the Philistines respond to Jonathan's attack**
 - 1) **His attack prompted a massive Philistine military build-up in Israel**
 - 2) **Saul was forced to summon the Israelites to war after having recently sent them home**

- VIII) **NOTICE: Saul blows the trumpet, sounding an alarm, to assemble the troops of Israel**
 - a) **HIS DESIRE: For all the nation to hear what had taken place, and to rally to him**

- IX) **INTERESTING: Though it was his son Jonathan who attacked the garrison, Saul took the credit**
 - a) **V4 NOTICE: All Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines**
 - 1) **Jonathan did the fighting, but Saul took the credit**

- X) **KEY: This gives us an insight into Saul's character: he was self seeking, blowing his own trumpet**
 - a) **He needed attention, and even used his own son to gain it**
 - 1) **He needed to hear his own name proclaimed and respected by the people**

- XI) **WHEN SOMEONE: Is truly seeking to serve the Lord, receiving personal attention is not important**
 - a) **We may hear it said, if you do not promote yourself, nobody else will**
 - 1) **It is always best to simply do your work and let God take care of the attention you receive**
 - 2) **2 Co 10:18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.**
 - 3) **Pr 27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.**
 - 4) **Become a team player, sit the bench and be prepared to play when given the opportunity**

- I) **V5-7 THEN:** The Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six
 - a) **A hornet's nest was stirred up, and the Philistines respond to Jonathan's attack**
 - 1) His attack prompted a massive Philistine military build-up in Israel

- II) **V6-7 WHEN:** The men of Israel saw that they were in danger for the people were distressed then the
 - a) **When they saw the size of their military, they began to desert, hiding wherever they could**
 - 1) Some went east, and crossed the Jordan River into the regions of Gad and Gilead
 - 2) Others remained, but they were in no position to fight: they were absolutely petrified

- III) **V8-14 THEN:** He waited seven days according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to
 - a) **What we have here is a continuation of what had been broken off in chapter 10**
 - 1) **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**

- IV) **KEY:** When Samuel delayed his arrival, Saul took charge and began making the offerings
 - a) **KEY: Offering sacrifice was not in and of itself wrong**
 - 1) **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.**

- V) **WHAT WAS WRONG:** Was that he took upon himself absolute power, revealing partial obedience
 - a) **He had been told to wait seven days, but by impatience was not willing to do so**
 - 1) Samuel did not arrive when Saul had expected him to, so he took matters into his own hand
 - 2) This revealed partial obedience and immaturity, not to mention unbelief and impetuosity

- VI) **V10 NOW:** It happened as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering that Samuel came
 - a) **Divine timing: Samuel walks up as Saul is making the burnt offering**
 - 1) A burnt offering is a symbol of absolute, total dedication to God
 - 2) Saul, upon seeing Samuel, approaches him expecting to receive a blessing from him
 - 3) **IT IS LIKE:** When you come home and your kids show you what they painted on the walls!

- VII) **V11 AND SAMUEL SAID:** What have you done Saul said When I saw that the people were scattered
 - a) **REMEMBER:** Samuel told Saul When these signs come to you, do as the occasion demands (10:7)
 - 1) This is exactly what Saul did: and it revealed his shallowness and faithlessness
 - 2) **HOW YOU RESPOND TO SITUATIONS:** Reveals your true faith in God

- VIII) **V11-12 SAUL SAID:** When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come
 - a) **It is your fault that I did this: the people were scattering while you were taking your time**
 - 1) I am in the real world, actually battling, while you are doing whatever it is that you do!

- IX) **V13 AND SAMUEL SAID:** To Saul You have done foolishly You have not kept the commandment
 - a) **When Samuel first spoke to Saul, he had told Saul to wait for seven days (10:8)**
 - 1) This was not something that Samuel determined, but was a command from God

- X) **SAUL:** Took the command as a suggestion, and when circumstances produced pressure, he acted
 - a) **In his taking control of the situation, he clearly disregarded God's express command**
 - 1) This was not regarded lightly, but actually was sufficient for him to lose the kingdom

- I) **FACT:** The majority of people today, including Christians would have great difficulty with this
 - a) They would immediately disagree with God's decision, and call Him harsh and intolerant
 - 1) **AFTER ALL:** Saul was under pressure, and felt it necessary to be decisive and to act

- II) **THIS IS THE RESULT:** Of people today determining that they should follow their own instincts
 - a) For many, their own instincts are to be trusted outside of any outside influences
 - 1) **THIS IS TRUE FOR MANY TODAY:** They literally have become their own Yoda!

- III) **LEADERSHIP MAGAZINE:** Spring '09
 - a) 71% of adults surveyed stated that they set their own religious beliefs, ignoring what churches say
 - b) 61% of those claiming to be "born again" make this statement
 - 1) They literally have become their own theologian in residence

- IV) **SAUL:** Reacted under the pressure of the moment, and rejected what God had specifically commanded
 - a) In doing so, what was inside was revealed on the outside:
 - 1) His sinful nature revealed itself in its rejection of what he had specifically been told to do

- V) **YOUR DESIRE:** To conform to what God says in His word reveals your spiritual condition
 - a) When you truly love the Lord, your desire will be to do what He says
 - 1) Jn 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments
 - 2) 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
 - 3) Col 3:4 When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- VI) **V14 BUT NOW:** Your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own
 - a) Though Saul initially appeared to start out well, the fact is he never sought the Lord completely
 - 1) There was a young person by the name of David who was already being prepared by God
 - 2) Ac 13:22 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.'

- VII) **INTERESTINGLY:** When one man proves unqualified, God always has someone in the wings
 - a) The Lord sought for Himself someone to take Saul's place years before it actually occurred
 - 1) Saul was king for around 40 years (Ac 13:21)
 - 2) David became king when he was thirty (2 Sa 5:4-5), so at this time he may have been a child

- VIII) **POINT:** Though Israel regarded him as king, he was rejected throughout his reign
 - a) He was literally a Dead Man Walking throughout his time as king
 - 1) All along, God was waiting to anoint the true king, who was yet to be able to take the position
 - 2) David would eventually be placed in the position of receiving the kingdom
 - 3) Ps 37:23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

- IX) **V15-18 THEN:** Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin And Saul numbered
 - a) This was 10 miles W: There Saul counted up his troops, and was hit with the fact that he was doomed!
 - 1) His troops had all deserted, and he was left without a military

- X) **V17-18 RAIDERS (DESTROYERS):** Equivalent to their Special Forces set out to punish Benjamin

- a) They went 5 mi. northwest, the others went to the east, the other went to the southeast
- l) V19-23 NOW: There was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel
 - a) The Jewish military was in no way capable of fighting them, as they had no weapons
 - 1) These were highly skilled fighting men facing an army of men with farming tools
 - 2) They set out to watch Saul's rag tag army, never expecting any trouble from them
 - 3) But they did not know about Jonathan, and the courage that comes through faith