

Samuel (Rise of the King) - Lesson 16

First Test of the King (1 Samuel 11:1-15)

I. 1 Samuel 11:1-3

Nahash the Ammonite

- King of the Ammonites
- Name means **(1)** _____
- Determined enemy of Israel

Ammonites

- Descendants of Lot
- Lived (2) _____ of the Jordan
- Longtime enemies of Israel
- Conflict continued from Judges
- This was (3) _____ an isolated attack

Jabesh-gilead

- East of the Jordan
- Near Ammon
- Isolated and (4) _____
- Easy military target

II. Dead Sea Scrolls (4QSam^a)

Important Facts

- Found at Qumran
- About 1,000 years older than standard Hebrew manuscripts
- Includes additional background before chapter 11
- Explains Nahash's earlier attacks

Footnote Summary

- Nahash already terrorized eastern tribes.
- Right eyes had been gouged out.
- 7,000 refugees fled to Jabesh.

Why It Matters

Explains:

- Why Jabesh feared Nahash.
- Why the right eye mattered.
- Why Saul's victory was so significant.

Best Practice

- Helpful historical background.
- Not treated as Scripture.

III. The Stage Is Set

Saul has been:

- Anointed - Changed - Chosen - Returned home

Question:

- Can Saul (5) _____ Israel?

Jabesh's Response

- "We will serve you."
- Instead of fighting, they:
 - Chose (6) _____
 - Feared defeat
 - Sought peace
 - Offered to become servants

"Make a Treaty"

- Literally: "Cut a covenant."
- Included:
 - Oaths & Promises
 - Animal (7) _____

Results of the Treaty

- Nahash becomes their (8) _____
- Jabesh would:
 - Serve Ammon - Pay tribute
 - Lose all (10) _____
 - Receive Ammonite protection
- This was a binding (9) _____.

Spiritual Lesson

- Instead of trusting God:
 - Israel trusted a pagan king.
 - They sought (11) _____ apart from God.

IV.1 Samuel 11:2

Nahash's Terms

- No mercy - Public humiliation - National intimidation

Why the Right Eye?

- Shield protected left side
- Soldiers could no longer fight
- Permanent disgrace
 - Nahash wanted Israel unable to (12) _____.

National Shame

- Nahash wanted:

- Israel humiliated
- New king embarrassed
- Nation publicly **(13)** _____
- This was a direct challenge to Saul.
- Question:
 - Will Saul **(14)** _____ God's people?

Gospel Picture

- Satan seeks to:
 - Enslave people - Destroy God's image - Humiliate sinners
- Only God's Deliverer can save.

V. 1 Samuel 11:3

Seven-Day Request

- Jabesh asked for **(15)** _____ days.
- Nahash agreed because he believed:
 - Israel was too **(16)** _____
 - No one would come

"If No One Saves Us..."

- Hebrew: **yasa**
 - Means: Save, Rescue, Deliver
- People looked for **(17)** _____ help.
- God would provide divine deliverance.

Two Choices

- "We will go out..."
- Either:
 - Surrender to Nahash
 - Follow Saul into battle
- Doing **(18)** _____ was not an option.

VI.1 Samuel 11:4–10

Message Reaches Gibeah

- Saul's hometown
- Nation hears the crisis
- People weep
- Saul responds in **(19)** _____

The People's Response

- Recognized the danger
- Had no **(20)** _____

- Overwhelmed with fear

Saul Returns from the Field

- Still **(21)** _____
- Not in a palace
- Not commanding an army
- **Lesson:** God often uses ordinary people.

A Caring Leader

- Saul:
 - Asked what happened
 - Did not **(22)** _____ the people
 - Entered their grief
 - Prepared to lead

Saul's First Act as King

- Spirit empowered him
- Called Israel to battle
- Cut up oxen
- Called the nation to **(23)** _____

Covenant Responsibility

- Refusing to help fellow Israelites meant they would:
- **(24)** _____ the consequences.
- Every tribe shared responsibility to defend God's people.

"Follow Saul and Samuel"

- Saul ruled under God's authority.
- Samuel remained God's **(25)** _____.
- **Truth:** Political leadership must remain under God's Word.

Terror of the Lord

- God moved the **(26)** _____ of the people.
- Unity came from God.
- Israel gathered as one nation.

Saul Demonstrates Leadership

- Nation united
- Army assembled
- Saul **(27)** _____ the troops
- Leadership publicly **(28)** _____

Bezek

- Near Jabesh-gilead
- Previous victory in Judges 1
- Reminder of God's faithfulness

Unity

- Israel responded together
- Tribal divisions set aside
- God united His people through godly **(29)** _____

Message of Hope

- Saul promised:
- "You will be delivered tomorrow."
- People moved from:
 - Fear → Faith
 - Despair → Hope

Confidence

- Deliverance would come:
 - By the hot sun
 - No **(30)** _____
 - God had appointed the time

Faith Before Victory

- The people rejoiced **(31)** _____ the battle.
- **Principle:** God's promises produce faith before victory is seen.

Nahash's Mistake

- Jabesh said: "Tomorrow we will come out to you."
- Nahash **(32)** _____ surrender.
- God was preparing victory.

VII. 1 Samuel 11:11–13

The Lord's Deliverance

- Saul:
 - Moved immediately - Divided the army
 - Attacked during the morning watch
- Likely attack began before **(33)** _____.

Three Divisions

- Purpose:

- Surprise, Mobility, Confusion, Prevent escape
- Victory belonged to the Lord.

Complete Victory

- Enemy scattered.
- Unable to **(34)** _____.

After the Battle

- People demanded Saul's critics be:
- **(35)** _____

Saul's Greatest Moment

- Saul refused revenge.
- Reasons:
 - Day of **(36)** _____
 - Victory belonged to God
- Saul showed: Humility, Mercy, Gratitude

A Greater King

- Saul spared those who doubted him.
- Jesus spared those who **(37)** _____ Him.

Saul

- Mercy after victory

Jesus

- Mercy while accomplishing victory

VIII. LESSON APPLICATION

- God prepares those He calls.
- God raises deliverers for helpless people.
- Godly leadership seeks unity.
- Faith trusts God's promises before victory.
- God's victories belong to Him alone.
- Great leaders extend mercy rather than revenge.

Answer Key

1. SNAKE (Slide 14)
2. EAST (Slide 16)
3. NOT (Slide 17)
4. VULNERABLE (Slide 18)
5. DELIVER (Slide 33)
6. SURRENDER (Slide 35)
7. SACRIFICE (Slide 36)
8. RULER (Slide 37)
9. COVENANT (Slide 39)
10. FREEDOMS (Slide 40)
11. SECURITY (Slide 41)
12. INTIMIDATION (Slide 45)
13. FIGHT (Slide 46)
14. DISGRACED (Slide 48)
15. PROTECT (Slide 49)
16. SEVEN (Slide 54)
17. WEAK (Slide 55)
18. HUMAN (Slide 56)
19. NOTHING (Slide 57)
20. FAITH (Slide 67)
21. SOLUTIONS (Slide 68)
22. FARMING (Slide 69)
23. IGNORE (Slide 71)
24. UNITE (Slide 73)
25. SUFFER (Slide 74)
26. PROPHET (Slide 77)
27. HEARTS (Slide 78)
28. LEADERSHIP (Slide 80)
29. COUNTS (Slide 82)
30. DEMONSTRATED (Slide 87)
31. HESITATION (Slide 96)
32. BEFORE (Slide 97)
33. ASSUMED (Slide 99)
34. SUNSET (Slide 106)
35. REGROUP (Slide 109)
36. EXECUTED (Slide 111)
37. SALVATION (Slide 113)

38. CRUCIFIED (Slide 115)