

The Kingship of God: How Every Government Works For Our Good

Saul

1 Samuel 8:1–13:23

October 9, 2016

Sunday Evening Bible Study

So far in 1 Samuel, there seems to be a recurring theme of the birth or lineage of Jewish sons who have significant impact on the government of Israel.

Hannah's Son: Samuel 1:1–2:11 <i>Every government will be judged by the Lord (2:10).</i>	Eli's Sons Hophni and Phinehas 2:12–3:21 <i>Every government is fraught with corruption (2:12).</i>	Phinehas' Son Ichabod 4:1–7:17 <i>Every government rises and falls by God's decree (4:3).</i>	Kish's Son: Saul 8:1–13:23 <i>Every government tends to exploit the governed (8:11).</i>	Jesse's Son: David 14:1–16:23 <i>Every government needs leaders with integrity (16:7).</i>
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0.5 The _____ of Ebenezer

1. God's Presence: He is *with* us.
2. God's Protection: He is *for* us.
3. God's Permanence: He is *always* with and for us.
4. God's Possession: He *owns* us.
5. God's Power: He will cause even our failures to work for our good and his glory.

1. The _____ of God as king (8:1–22).

- 1.1 The people: demand that God be replaced by a man (8:1–9).
- 1.2 Samuel's: Kings are prone to use power to serve themselves instead of the governed (8:10–18)
- 1.3 We want a king like the other nations so we can live like the other nations (19–22).
 1. The sin is not *that* they asked for a king (Gen. 17:6; Dt. 17:14–17).
 2. The sin is *why* they asked for a king (7,8): Doubting God's sovereignty and wanting the benefits of God without God.
- 1.4 Principle: Corruption in government increases in proportion to unchecked power.

2. The _____ of Saul by Samuel (9:1–27).

- 2.1 God is sovereign over every physical trait (1–2).
- 2.2 God is sovereign over every business setback (3–10).
- 2.3 God is sovereign over every human encounter (11–14).
- 2.4 God is sovereign over every head of state (15–27).
- 2.5 Principle: Your donkeys are lost for a reason (16).

3. The _____ of Saul by the people (10:1–26).

- 3.1 Three signs to convince Saul (1–8).

3.2 Saul's "new heart" (9–16). Was Saul saved?

1. Yes: God chose him, saved him by grace alone, and used him to prophesy and lead his people. He professed faith in God and gave him glory (11:13) but his subsequent sins such as jealousy, abuse, and attempted murder were displeasing to God, his Father, who took his life. His failures are warnings to all of us in the family of God (see also 28:19).
2. No: Saul's subsequent sins are evidence he never was saved. In the OT, the Holy Spirit "came on" specific people to empower them for "specific" tasks but it does not mean regeneration as in Eph. 2 or John 3. His failures remind us that there are those who appear to be saved but, like Judas, are not.

3.3 Reminder: God saved his people, not Moses, Joshua, or Gideon (17,18).

3.4 Rebuke: You rejected God (19)

3.5 Reassurance: But God has not rejected you (20–24).

3.6 Requirement: The king of Israel must obey the King of Kings (25–27).

3.7 Principle: God keeps his promises to us for his own sake.

4. The _____ of the people in victory (11:1–15)

4.1 Nahash threatens to people of Jabesh (1–4).

4.2 Israel unites around Saul (5–11).

4.3 Saul credits God for victory (12–15)

4.4 Principle: Salvation is by God's grace alone.

5. The _____ of Samuel begins (12:1–25)

5.1. Samuel's lifetime of integrity (1–5)

5.2. Israel's consistent pattern: Rebellion→Discipline→Repentance→Restoration→Rebellion (6–25).

5.3. Principle: God's commitment to us rests on his commitment to himself.

6. The _____ of Saul by God (13:1–23).

6.1 Saul takes credit for Jonathan's victory. (1–4).

6.2 Saul disobeys the command of 10:8, waiting into but not through the 7th day (5–10).

6.3 Saul blames Samuel instead of repenting (11–12).

6.4 Saul gets the bad news: his kingship will end; his replacement is chosen (13–15).

6.5 Saul faces a formidable foe with shaken confidence (16–23).

6.6 Principle: The best leaders know their place because they know they are replaceable.

Application: Six Ways To Wreck A Church

1. Appoint unqualified leaders.

2. Emulate the surrounding culture.

3. Doubt the sovereign kingship of God.

4. Deny the final authority of God's Word (*sola scriptura*).

5. Ignore the study of history and God's faithfulness to past generations.

6. Replace God with techniques, technology, treasure, and tall men.