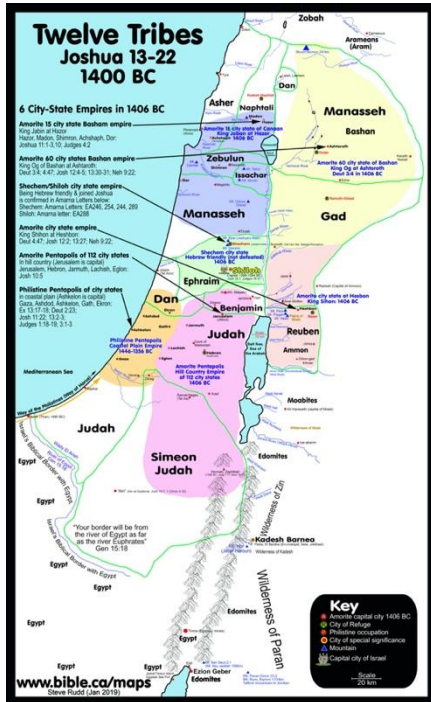


The MESSage “Saul”



MAP OF THE LAND THEY
CONQUERED!

Divided into 12 tribes of Israel:

10 Sons
2 Grandsons (Joseph's boys)

LEVITES: The Priests
(10% of everything)

Joshua dies in 42 years later at age 110

God was their King.....Anointed prophets and Set up Judges for 250 years!

Moral decline! Continued battles!

- Serve and obey me: You win
- Do it on your own: You loose

Judges 18:1 & 19:1 start by saying “In those days Israel had no king”

Judges 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

The people wanted a KING so they could be like everyone else!

Samuel was the prophet and spiritual leader of Israel.

1 Samuel 8:4-5 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

-God was set up to be their King! They wanted to be like all the other nations.

1 Samuel 8:6-9 But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us.” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.” ⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. ⁹ Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.”

BASICALLY: TELL THEM THE CONSEQUENCES:

1 Samuel 8:10-18 Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots.” ¹² Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. ¹⁶ Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. ¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. ¹⁸ When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

-He will take the best of the best.

-They will give 10th of everything

-They will be slaves to the kingdom

1 Samuel 8:19-22 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. ²⁰ Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.” ²¹ When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. ²² The Lord answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”

1) NOTICE THIS: YOU CAN HAVE WHAT YOU WANT!

-GOD GIVES US CLEAR WARNING SIGNS!

-CAN BE WARNINGS, OR WE CAN IGNORE!

-GOD GIVE US FREEDOM TO CHOOSE!

2) THERE IS A COST OF DOING IT YOUR OWN WAY

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

SO.....Saul becomes King 1100 BC 1 SAMUEL 11

Sam Chand quote: “things don’t end bad.....they start bad”

There was a way of doing things: Priests would offer a sacrifice to the Lord before battle.

SAUL Offered a sacrifice to try to win a battle instead of waiting for Samuel to do it.

1 Samuel 13:13-14 “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”

-SAUL DECIDED TO DO THINGS HIS WAY!

BOOK END THIS BY JUMPING TO THE END:

Samuel the prophet told Saul that God was going to punish the Amalekites for what they had done to Israel.

-God told Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites and take NOTHING!

1 Samuel 15:7-9 Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. ⁸ He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. ⁹ But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were

unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

CLEAR INSTRUCTION: Destroy it all.....but SAUL had a better idea!

SAUL DECIDED HIS WAY WAS BETTER!

1 Samuel 15:10-11 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: ¹¹ “I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

SO WHERE WAS SAUL???

1 Samuel 15:12 Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

-SAUL WAS CELEBRATING “HIS” VICTORY!

-Set up a MONUMENT to HIMSELF!!

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

1 Samuel 15:13-15 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.” ¹⁴ But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?” ¹⁵ Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

-Saul was trying to convince Samuel that he had obeyed!

1 Samuel 15:16-19 “Enough!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” “Tell me,” Saul replied. ¹⁷ Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. ¹⁸ And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’ ¹⁹ Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?”

THIS WAS A HEART THING

HEART ISSUE: SAUL CONVINCED HIMSELF THAT HE HAD OBEYED!

1 Samuel 15:20-21 “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me, I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹ The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

SAUL JUSTIFIED HIS ACTIONS.....EVEN PULLED OUT THE “GOD CARD”

- 1) You can do what you want
- 2) There are consequences to doing it your way
- 3) To OBEY is better than sacrifice

1 Samuel 15:22 But 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.**

SAUL CONVINCED HIMSELF THAT HE OBEYED!

SAUL THOUGHT HE COULD DO IT HIS WAY.....

.....AND GET OUT OF IT BY MAKING A SACRIFICE!

“TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE”

WE SEE THE ENDING BACK AT THE BEGINNING:

1 Samuel 13:13-14 “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. **“You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.”** ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has

sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

NEXT WEEK: DAVID

- 1) You can do what you want
- 2) There are consequences to doing it your way
- 3) To OBEY is better than sacrifice

Psalm 51

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. ¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is^[b] a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. ¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

MAJOR DIFFERENCE IN THE HEART!

COMMUNION!

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.