

# The Fall of King Saul

*How God views obedience (1 Samuel 15:1-35)*

Why is more written about King David than any other King of Israel?

- God presents the life of David as an example of leadership (*both good & bad*).
- God preserved the kingdom of David to prepare the way for the Messiah who was to come.
- God puts David on display to show the inner workings of what it means to be in a real relationship with God.

This summer we are looking forward to learning lessons from the life of David to help us in our relationship with God first and foremost, with our struggle against enemies, and to help us with our leadership whether it is on the job or at home.

## **1 Cor. 10:11-13 (NIV)**

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

## **Knowing Your Way Around in the Story**

- The people rejected God's rule and demanded a king.

## **1 Samuel 8:4&5 (NIV)**

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

- God ordered them to destroy other nations because He had declared His judgment upon them for their violent and evil practices.

## **Deuteronomy 9:4&5 (NASB)**

"Do not say in your heart when the LORD your God has driven them out before you, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,' but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is dispossessing them before you. It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

## **Knowing the Heart of God from the Story (*Removing the guesswork*)**

### **1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NASB)**

Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifice. As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."

You can know the true heart of God from this story by asking yourself three questions:

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1. How Jealous is God over you?

**1 Samuel 8:7& 8 (NIV)**

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. 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."

**Exodus 20:1-6 (NIV)**

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments."

2. Do I add or take away from what God asks of me?

**1 Samuel 15:13&14 (NIV)**

When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions." But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

**Deuteronomy 4:2 (NIV)**

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

**John 14:15 (NASB)**

" If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

**1 John 2:3-5 (NIV)**

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him.

3. Where does the credit go?

**Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)**

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

**Psalms 29:2 (NASB)**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in holy array.

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