

## 1 SAMEUL OVERVIEW –

As we progress through our study of the 66 books of God's Holy Scripture we come to a crucial **transition point** in the history of Israel. We have seen the dark side of the repetitive cycles of apostasy recorded during the days of the judges. The last verse of Judges captures the tone of that period: *"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* So one might have the expectation that introducing the monarchy would be the **solution** to Israel's sin problem. But that is not the case. In fact we are going to see that God is very angry with the demand of the people to have a king just like all the other nations around them. Last week we had a brief glimpse of an interlude of hope and blessing in the story of Ruth that took place during that era. Boaz in his role as kinsman-redeemer showed how God's plan of redemption even incorporates **Gentiles** into His kingdom. The **kind providence of God** was at work behind the scenes to bless Ruth for her loyalty and devotion.

Today the historical narrative once again moves forward as we enter into the books of Samuel, Kings and then Chronicles which will take us all the way through the OT period.

### Historical Overview:

- 1&2 Samuel – introduce us to the monarchy
- 1&2 Kings – conclude the monarchy
- 1&2 Chronicles – cover the entire period of the monarchy

### **J. Sidlow Baxter:**

In the case of 1 Samuel there is really no need to burden ourselves with a detailed analysis. Fix it well in the mind – and the memory will easily retain it – that 1 Samuel is the book of the **transition** from the theocracy to the monarchy; and the book of the three remarkable men – Samuel, the last of the Judges, Saul, the first of the Kings, and David, the greatest of the kings. If we remember this, we cannot easily forget the central spiritual message of the book. God had called Israel into a unique relationship with Himself; and God Himself was **Israel's King invisible**.

Through disobedience the people had brought chastisement upon themselves from time to time, but were willing to attribute much of this, later, to the fact that they had no human and visible king, such as the surrounding nations had; and now, at length, as Samuel ages, and his sons prove perverse, the people make it the occasion to press for a human king. The fateful choice is recorded in **chapter viii**, which should be read carefully. It was a retrograde step, dictated merely by seeming **expedience**. It was the way of human wisdom, not of faith in God. It was taking the lower level. It was a **refusing of God's best, for the second best**—and there is much difference between the two.

### **Structure of the Book:** Rejecting God's Design for Leadership 3 Main Sections

- I. Transition from Samuel (Period of Judges / Theocracy) – **(1-7)**
- II. To Saul (Monarchy / The People's Choice) – **(8-15)**
- III. To David (God's Choice) -- see the interaction between Saul and David **(16-31)**

Kingship was not a surprising or unexpected development. In fact in the book of Deuteronomy we see a prophetic picture of what kingship would mean for God's people. Here are very

explicit **warnings** against the pitfalls of the monarchy:

**Deut. 17:14-17**

*"When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,'<sup>15</sup> you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.<sup>16</sup> "Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.'<sup>17</sup> "Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself."*

But attention to **obeying the Word of God** is the only antidote to the dangers presented by this kingdom form of government which will focus power in a single man: The king must fear the Lord and guard against Pride:

**Deut. 17:18-20**

*"Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests.<sup>19</sup> "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes,<sup>20</sup> that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left; in order that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel."*

**Big Idea:** God's People have a tendency to reject God's ideal leadership model, but God still accomplishes His kingdom agenda

**Key Verse:**

**1 Samuel 8:7** *"they have rejected Me from being king over them"*

Same sentiment repeated in a number of other verses – (10:19; 12:12)

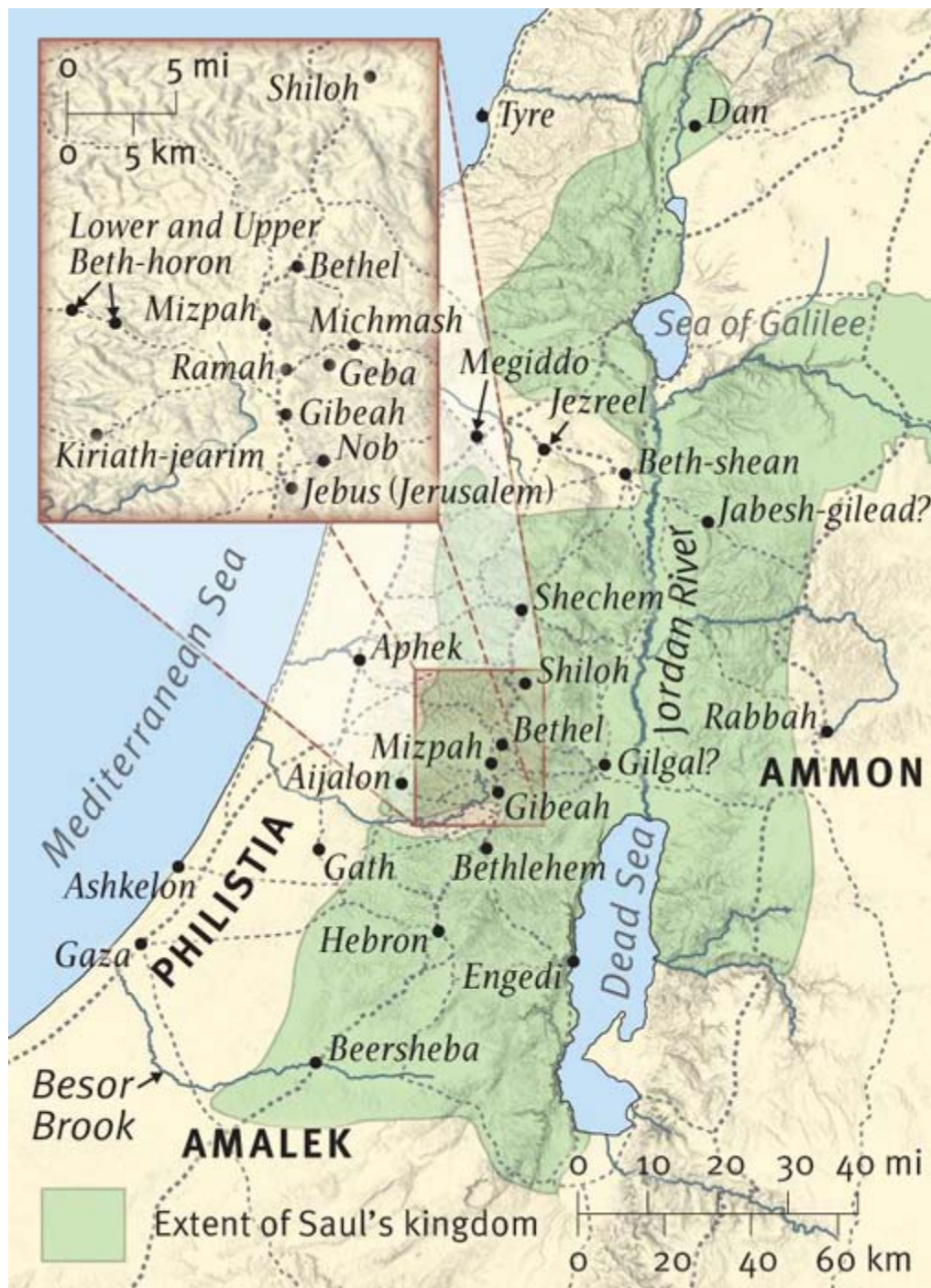
**Name of the Book:**

- Heb. Canon -- 1 book combining 1&2 Samuel = "Samuel"
- LXX = divided into 2 books and combined with 1&2 Kings = "First, Second, Third and Fourth Kings"
- Latin Vulgate of Jerome; "First and Second Kings"
- not until the 15<sup>th</sup> century AD did the change come which our English bibles have adopted – "1&2 Samuel; 1&2 Kings"

**Geography:**

The events largely took place in the central highlands – with a number of key cities:

- Shiloh – the residence of Eli and the tabernacle
- Ramah – hometown of Samuel
- Gibeah – headquarters of Saul
- Bethlehem – birthplace of David
- Hebron – capital city for David



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### Structure of the Book: Rejecting God's Design for Leadership

- I. Transition from **Samuel** (Period of Judges / Theocracy) (**Chap. 1-7**)
  - Lessons from the Life of Samuel
  - One who listened to God and faithfully spoke God's Word

94 year period from birth of Samuel to death of Saul -- 1105 – 1015 B.C.  
Philistines oppressed the nation during this time

## **Chap. 1 – THE BIRTH AND DEDICATION OF SAMUEL**

- The Sovereign Lord is the one who opens and closes the womb – still great heartache
  - o **Vs. 2** -- Hannah had no children
  - o **Vs. 6** – the Lord had closed her womb
- Promise to dedicate her son to the Lord’s service
  - o **Vs. 11** -- “*then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life*” – **vs. 28**
- Passionate prayer can transform a root of bitterness into a seed of blessing.
  - o **Vs. 15** “*she poured out her soul before the Lord*”
- Joy of answered prayer – **vs. 18** – “*her face was no longer sad*”

## **Chap. 2 – THE PRAYER OF HANNAH’S THANKSGIVING**

Key Principle: God is the Sovereign One who both Exalts the Lowly and Judges the Wicked

**James 4:6** “*God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble*”

**Prov. 16:18; 18:12** “*Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.*”

### **1 Sam. 2:4-5** Multiple Examples of this Key Principle

- Realm of warfare (strong vs. weak) – **vs. 4**
- Realm of economics (full vs. hungry) – **vs. 5a**
- Realm of family (fertile vs. barren) – **vs. 5b**

### **1 Sam. 2:6-10** Multiple Statements of this Key Principle and Conclusion

- **Vs. 6** – regarding death and life
- **Vs. 6b-8a** – regarding poverty and riches
- **Vs. 8b-10** – Summary and Conclusion

## **Chap. 2 --- THE FAILURE OF THE PRIESTHOOD (ELI AND HIS SONS)**

### 2 Contrasting Models of Spiritual Ministry

- **Selfish Exploitation** – sons of Eli – “*worthless men*” -- **vs. 12** / “*despised the offering of the Lord*” – **vs. 17**
  - o Took more meat than was allowed
  - o Eli failed to properly discipline his sons
- **Sacrificial, Dedicated service** – Samuel (**vs. 18, 21, 26**)

### **(2:27-36)** The Abuse of the Privileges of Spiritual Leadership has Far-Reaching Consequences

- God will take the priesthood away from Eli and his house – Prophecy of their death  
Principle: “*those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.*” **Vs. 30**
- God will raise up a faithful priest – **vs. 35**

### Chap. 3 – THE CALL OF SAMUEL

Look at what happens in **Chap. 3** just after the record of the failure of the Priesthood.  
God breaks into human history with the grace of His revelation – **vs. 1** “*word from the Lord was rare in those days*” – God is going to provide the first of the line of the prophets

**Vs. 10** “*Speak, for your servant is listening*” – Key availability and faithfulness of God’s prophet – then go on faithfully communicate the whole counsel of God – even hard words of judgment – regardless of how it will be received by others

### Chap. 4 – ICHABOD = THE GLORY IS GONE

Tragic Defeat at the hand of the Philistines:

- Stole the ark of the covenant = throne of God – **vs. 11** -- brought it into the house of Dagon (**Chap. 5**) to try to subjugate Israel’s God to their God – didn’t work out very well for them
- Levelled the tabernacle = palace of God – no more mention of a functioning tabernacle **Ps. 78:60-61** “*So that He abandoned the dwelling place at Shiloh, The tent which He had pitched among men, <sup>61</sup> And gave up His strength to captivity, And His glory into the hand of the adversary.*”
- Destroyed Shiloh = the capital city at that time – assumed rather than stated
- Killed over **30,000** soldiers – **vs. 10**
- Killed the sons of Eli the priest – **vs. 11**

Eventually Samuel led revival and the ark was returned – but still caused problems when it was not handled correctly; the Philistines were defeated and cities recaptured – **chaps. 5-7**

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**Structure of the Book: Rejecting God’s Design for Leadership**

- II. To **Saul** (Monarchy / The People’s Choice) (**Chap. 8-15**)
  - Lessons from the Life of Saul
  - Impressive in Outward Appearance

### Chap. 8 – Major Transition – DEMAND FOR A KING

- (:1-3) God’s Leadership Model cannot be established on the basis of **Natural Succession**
- (:4-9) God’s Leadership Model cannot be established on the basis of **the Voice of the People** (popular vote no guarantee of finding God’s will)
- (:10-18) God’s Warnings about Leadership Fall on Deaf Ears – **High Cost of Kingship**
- (:19-22) Sometimes God gives in to our stubbornness and allows us to choose **second best** – but this does not mean that God cannot still bless – we all find ourselves at times having lost out on God’s best because of our sinfulness ... but we need to continue on with a life of faith and obedience from wherever we are

## Chap. 9-10 – APPOINTMENT OF SAUL AS KING

9:2 – Introduction to Impressive looking son of Kish

*“And he had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people.”*

Right from the outset you see that the emphasis is on **outward appearance** – here God is finally giving the people what they had clamored for

9:16 -- *“you shall anoint him to be prince over My people Israel”*

10:19 – the people’s choice characterized again as a rejection of God

*“But you today rejected your God, who delivers you from all your calamities and your distresses; yet you have said, ‘No, but set a king over us!’ Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans.”*

- Demand based on **wrong motives**; depending on the flesh
- Failure to appreciate the reality of being led by their **invisible God**

Chap. 11 – as God had promised Samuel – this newly minted King Saul led a deliverance from the Ammonites

## Chap. 12:12-25 HISTORICAL REVIEW AND CHALLENGE TO THE PEOPLE

Vs. 19-25 – We all end up in the position of second best many times – challenge is not to get sloppy and think that obedience no longer matters; instead intensify your commitment to obey

*“Then all the people said to Samuel, ‘Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, so that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil by asking for ourselves a king.’”<sup>20</sup> And Samuel said to the people, ‘Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.<sup>21</sup> And you must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which can not profit or deliver, because they are futile.’<sup>22</sup> ‘For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself.’<sup>23</sup> Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.<sup>24</sup> Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.’<sup>25</sup> But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away.”*

Principle: Present Obedience can Outweigh Past Transgression

## Chap. 13 PROBLEM OF EXPEDIENCY

Vs. 1-7 – Israel facing a **desperate situation** –

Jonathan had led a successful surprise attack *“on the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba.”* Sounds like a positive event – but actually it was like waking a sleeping giant for now the Israelites were *odious to the Philistines*. Saul initially proud of his son’s exploits ... but

boasting soon turned into trembling and fear and panic.

Both sides marshalled their forces anticipating a major conflict. But it was obvious that Israel was going to be no match for the superior forces and weaponry of their legendary enemy. Some of the people immediately fled and tried to hide. Others stayed with Saul but were shaking in their boots.

**Vs. 8-12** – Saul is dealing with clear commands from God

- Wait for Samuel (:7b)
- Don't usurp the role of a priest

But he was under intense leadership pressure.

Ended up taking matters into his own hands and caving to the **pressure of expediency** –

3 Rationalizations for Choosing Expedience Rather Than Obedience – very important

1. (:8-12) UNITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TRUTH

*"the people were scattering from me"*

A Problem with the People of God

The ship is falling apart. No one will be left. Therefore, I can sacrifice truth to do what I think will best preserve and promote unity. Unity is a good goal, but it can never be made an end in itself to justify not obeying God's instructions in other areas. As a Christian virtue, love is greater than faith and hope (**1 Cor. 13:13**), but it is not greater than doctrine and truth. In fact, true Christian love cannot thrive apart from an atmosphere of Christian truth. God is only glorified by **unity in the truth** just as Christ and the Father are one (**John 17:21**).

Saul would have been much better off if all of the people had fled while he alone stood firm for the truth. Instead he gave in to the pressure and tried to rally the troops by an act of disobedience. It is interesting to note that he did not achieve the result he intended-- for at the end he only had 600 men left anyway. But even if 4000 had stood with him, this would not have justified his sin.

2. (:11) GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS NO LONGER APPLY BECAUSE OF MY CIRCUMSTANCES

*"you did not come within the appointed days"*

A Problem with the Word of God

Are God's instructions trustworthy, serious, imperative to follow regardless of my circumstances? We don't have to understand the reasons behind God's commands to obey them.

3. (:11) THE CONSEQUENCES OF OBEDIENCE WILL BE TOO SEVERE

*"the Philistines were assembling at Michmash"*

A Problem with the Enemies of God

Defeat seemed to be imminent from a natural perspective

**Vs. 8-14** record Samuel's arrival and confrontation with Saul – serious consequences for failure



## Chap. 15 – THE HIGH COST OF INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE

### (:3) Clear Commission: Total destruction of Amalek per divine judgment.

*“Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.”*

(:9) Catastrophic Omission: Failure to kill Agag (maybe a trophy of victory); and sparing the best of the livestock (probably motivated by greed and self-interest – Why waste such valuable resources?)

*“But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.”*

### (:14, 22-23) Painful Confrontation:

- Severe Accountability – Saul’s role as king was at stake
- Religious excuses and outright lies betray a failure to grasp the nature of rebellion
- To obey is better than sacrifice

(:30-31) Vanity of Saul – Very concerned with how he was perceived by others –

*“Then he said, ‘I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.’<sup>31</sup> So Samuel went back following Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.”*

admits he has done wrong, but please honor me before the elders and the people of Israel; Saul very concerned about what others thought of him

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### Structure of the Book: Rejecting God’s Design for Leadership

#### III. To **David** (God’s Choice) (**Chap. 16-31**)

Lessons from the Life of David

A Man after God’s own Heart

## Chap. 16 – ANOINTING OF DAVID AS KING

Key Principle: vs. 7 – *“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”*

Our insight and wisdom can never equal God’s perspective.

Anointing of David -- 16:12-13 – *“So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, ‘Arise, anoint him; for this is he.’<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.”*

- Impressive natural qualities and talents
- Clear choice of the Lord



- Private anointing ceremony in the context of Jesse's family
- Empowered by the Spirit of the Lord
- Samuel's job was done

David enters into the court of Saul (**16:14-23**)

## **Chap. 17 – DAVID'S VICTORY OVER GOLIATH**

### Key Observations:

- David concerned for the **reputation of the Lord (:26)** – look at the emphasis on the character of God
  - (**:36**) the living God
  - (**:45**) the name of the Lord Almighty
  - (**:46**) there is a God in Israel = the faithful, omnipotent, covenant God
- The battle belongs to the Lord – fight the battles that matter to the Lord
- Israelites were defeated and dominated by **fear**
- Look at **contrasts** in this great victory – all the odds against David and that is when God works; when we are weak He works the victory:
  - A youth who fights an adult
  - A humble shepherd who fights a highly trained warrior
  - The inexperienced fights the experienced
  - A small person fights a literal giant
  - An unarmed person fights an armed person

We must fight in God's power, with His resources and weapons and timing and in His way;  
 Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world; it is the Lord's battle  
 We can be more than conquerors in overcoming great odds when it seems impossible

## **Chap. 18 – DIVINE PROSPERITY VS DIVINE REJECTION**

### Blessing of Prosperity

Key = Prosperity connected with the presence and favor of God (**18:12,14,28**)

**18:14** – *“David was prospering in all his ways for the Lord was with him.”*

Examine the 6 different realms in which God prospered David:

- a. Friendship -- Loyalty and Love of Close Friends (**:1-4**) – See Chap. 20

- b. Work -- Achievements and Increasing Responsibilities
  - 1) Submissive to authority (:5)
  - 2) Prosperity from the Lord characterized everything David gave himself to
  - 3) Promoted despite Saul's suspicious, envious spirit
  - 4) Ability to take the most difficult task and still overachieve (:25-27)
- c. Reputation -- Respect and Admiration of the People
  - everyone admired David except for Saul (:5-8, 16, 30)
- d. Talents -- Gifted with Natural Abilities Such as Music (:10)
- e. Marriage -- Prosperous in Marriage
- f. Character -- Fruit of Spiritual Character
  - 1) Humility (:18,23)
  - 2) Courage and Faith (:17,26)
  - 3) Wisdom (:30)

## **Chap. 20 – TRUE FRIENDSHIP – DAVID AND JONATHAN**

### 9 Characteristics of True Friendship

- I. True Friendship Involves a Mutual Commitment Often Inspired by Affinities (18:1-4)
  - A. In the natural realm -- both young, strong, brave warriors, loved the outdoors
  - B. In the spiritual realm -- zeal for the Lord
- II. True Friendship Is Based on God-Given Love (fruit of the Holy Spirit)
- III. Can Be Trusted During Times of Danger and Confusion (20:1-3)
- IV. Willing to Do Anything for One Another -- Even to the Point of Death (20:4-7)
  - “Whatever you say, I will do for you.”*
  - Quite an open check invitation
- V. Expects to be Cut a Break; Complete Honesty; No Hidden Agendas (20:8-9)
  - “Therefore deal kindly with your servant”*
- VI. Does Not Hesitate to Make and Keep Promises (20:10-17)
  - no rivalry, but desire to see God's best worked out for each other;
  - desire to see your friend vindicated and enemies put down
  - desire to reap some benefits from the friendship as well
  - sometimes promises need to be repeated and commitments reaffirmed
  - love must always be central (20:17)
- VII. Trusts the Judgment of One Another (20:18-23)
  - creative in devising a plan to meet the needs of the situation
  - can keep a secret
  - looks to the Lord for wisdom in evaluating and making judgments
- VIII. Does Not Wilt Under Pressure or Turn Back (20:24-31)
- IX. Shares the Full Range of the Emotional Spectrum and Especially Grieves At the Necessity of Separation

## Chap. 21-30 CONTRASTING FALL OF SAUL AND RISE OF DAVID

### Meltdown of King Saul:

- eclipsed by and tormented by jealousy directed towards David
- Saul will resent David's success and try to kill him;
- **Chap. 22** – orders an Edomite to kill 85 priests of the Lord (**vs. 18**) just because one of them had helped David; so Saul as the leader of God's people becomes the opponent of God's will
- **23:14** -- Saul pursued David; but God protected him  
*"And David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand."*
- **25:1** – Death of Samuel
- **Chap. 28** – Saul consults a female medium at Endor

### Rise of King David:

- David spares Saul's life a couple of times – refusing to touch *the Lord's anointed* (**24:11-12**) *"Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.'"<sup>11</sup> Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it."*
- **24:20** – Prophetic insight of Saul -- *And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.*
- **Chap. 25:43-44; 27:3** – Lord blessed him with various wives –
  - (Michal taken away from David)
  - Abigail the Carmeliteess, Nabal's widow and
  - Ahinoam of Jezreel
- **Chap. 27-28** – David taking refuge in Philistine cities – protected by God
- Finishes with David's victory over the Amalekites in **Chap. 30**

## Chap. 31 – DEATH OF SAUL

### Death of Saul – conflict; painted in two different ways (**Bill McRae**)

- End of **1 Samuel 31** – hit by an archer and then falls on his own sword and takes his life
- **2 Sam. 1** – asks Amalakite to take his life from him

### 2 explanations:

- Languishing after his attempt at suicide, he calls upon Amalakite to finish him off;
- Or the Amalakite was the one telling this story in **2 Sam. 1** and he was lying – likely this was the best option

When people charge the bible with contradictions, it exposes their very limited understanding of the available options and explanations; depends on your **perspective** and attitude– if you come to

the bible looking to find errors, you will find them; but if you approach the bible believing it to be the Word of God then you look for a way to reconcile the two accounts  
The critic cannot prove there is a contradiction. You would have to know all of the facts.

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**Big Idea:** God's People have a tendency to reject God's ideal leadership model, but God still accomplishes His kingdom agenda

What is God's ideal leadership model for today and how are we as a church responding?

Certainly it starts with understanding Servanthood at the core of the model

**Matt. 20:25-28** *"But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many'."*

**Brian Billick** (the former Baltimore Ravens coach) considered himself an expert on Leadership Principles – wrote a book – *Competitive Leadership – 12 Principles for Success* – gleaned insights from many people – but I had to write him to point out that he had neglected to include this most fundamental of leadership principles as taught by the Lord Jesus.  
So God's model for leadership is based on self sacrifice and serving others not on enriching oneself and aggregating personal power and prestige.

But Church Government in the NT must be studied in more detail. What type of safeguards did Jesus intend in order to promote Himself as the invisible Head of His church? In order to guard against any tendency towards domination and selfishness on the part of a single leader? What type of checks and balances to guard against the corrupting influence of the power of leadership?

**Mark Dever:** Our church polity reflects our theology – (Respect his 9 Marks ministry)

- If you have a high view of man's natural depravity you will favor a leadership structure that does not concentrate power on just one man – whose sinfulness could drag you down; you will want a more diffused system of leadership (plurality of elders/pastors)
- If you have a lower view of depravity; don't think the Fall had that negative an impact; think that people are basically good, you will probably be more comfortable with having power more concentrated

You see this in politics; you also see this in the church

But remember, it is not **all** about having the biblical model of church government structure.

God evaluated kings according to their **heart attitude**. You can have the right structure – say theonomy in the time of the judges – and yet a heart of apostasy. *"To obey is better than*

*sacrifice.*” That does not mean that religious forms are unimportant. Only that the priority is heartfelt faith and obedience.

### **So Why Study This Book of 1 Samuel?**

- Gain insights into the pitfalls and opportunities of spiritual leadership
- Learn how our stubbornness and self-will can rob us of God’s best for us
- Renew appreciation for the Holiness of God and the high cost of disobedience
  
- Dedicate yourself to the hard work of parenting
- See loyal friendship in action
- Be inspired by the heroic attitudes and actions of David as a type of Christ
- Appreciate Christ as the ultimate Prophet, Priest and King

### **31:8-13**

1 Samuel begins with the Philistines defeating the Israelites, capturing the ark of the covenant, destroying the tabernacle and the capital city of Shiloh. It ends with the Philistines defeating King Saul and his three sons, cutting off Saul’s head and desecrating his body.

2 Samuel will record the reversals of these tragedies as the Lord blesses His chosen King = the man after his own heart = David.