

The God of David

Saul – the Foolish King of Israel

1 Samuel 11-14

Lesson 4

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 23, 2012*

The Plan of God

- ▶ Daniel 4:34-35 – He does according to His will
- ▶ Ephesians 1:7-10 – The mystery of His will
- ▶ Genesis 12:1-3 – Great nation – a Kingdom
- ▶ None can stay His hand
 - Hand – the power of execution of one's will upon another
 - Hand of man – Philistines, King Saul
 - Hand of God

1 & 2 Samuel

- ▶ Anticipating the Seed: Enoch, Lamech, Abraham
- ▶ Prior promises – unclear
 - Genesis 49:10 – scepter in Judah
 - Deuteronomy 17:14-20 – instructions for a king
- ▶ Hannah's song – 1 Sam. 2:10 – The Messiah is King
- ▶ Israel gets a king
 - Running ahead of God
 - Surrogate for God (8:20)
 - Secular monarchy (Deut 17:14-15; 1 Sam. 8:5, 20)
- ▶ The right thing in the wrong way is the wrong thing

King Saul

▶ Human choice

- Based upon non-spiritual analysis (10:24)
- Seemingly has the approval of God (10:24; 12:3, 5)

▶ God's choice

- Judgment (1 Samuel 9:15-17 – restrain My people) – Psalm 106:15
- Rebels' prophetic statement (10:27) – “How can this man save us?”

▶ A profane man

- Raised 5 miles from Samuel and did not know him
- Does not wait upon the LORD – seeks to manipulate the LORD
- Not submissive to the Law of God
- Devoted to preventing the Messianic line

1 & 2 Samuel

- ▶ A timeless message – Psalm 2
- ▶ God working and man opposing
- ▶ *Mystery of the ways of God (Ecclesiastes 3:11; 11:3, 5)*

Saul – the Foolish King of Israel

1 & 2 Samuel 11-14

- ▶ Great expectations – victory over the Ammonites (11)
- ▶ Samuel teaches – past, present, future (12)
- ▶ Saul delivers Israel (13-14)

Saul defeats Ammonites (11)

▶ The Ammonite threat (12:12)

- Weakness of Israel
- Nahash the Ammonite's evil intent (11:2)
- Israel did not seek the LORD, or Samuel

▶ Hand of the LORD through Saul

- Spirit of God came upon him for this work (11:6)
- Saul and Samuel – authority
- Threat of slaughter of oxen (11:7)
- The dread of the LORD came upon the people (11:7)
- The army assembles – 330,000 men
- Early morning sneak attack

Victory Celebration

- ▶ Exaltation of Saul – revenge for rejection of Saul
- ▶ Humility and mercy of Saul – glory to God?
- ▶ Samuel continues to minister
 - “Renew the kingdom”
 - Peace offerings

Samuel's history lesson (12)

- ▶ “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you.” (12:1)
 - Saul is not God's plan for Israel
 - This is the “way that seems right to man . . . way to death.” (Prov. 14:12; 16:25)
 - Nothing is changed! Still need repentance.
- ▶ The way of the LORD is good
 - Samuel's conduct as the LORD'S provision
 - Contrast with the king's way (8:10-18)

The righteous deeds of the LORD (12:6-18)

- ▶ Redemption by Moses and Aaron
- ▶ The pattern of history
 - They forgot the LORD their God in Canaan (12:9)
 - The LORD afflicted them with Sisera, the Philistines, the king of Moab
 - The affliction led to repentance (12:10)
 - The LORD sent deliverers (12:11)

Deliverance without repentance (12:12-13)

- ▶ Nahash appeared – no repentance but call for a king
- ▶ God was your king – the way of peace
- ▶ This king will not solve your problem
- ▶ The application of Samuel's lesson (12:14-18)
 - Fear the LORD
 - Serve Him
 - Stand still and see His great power

Repentance – never too late (12:19- 25)

- ▶ Confession re: evil of asking for a king (12:19-20)
- ▶ Serve the LORD
 - Do not turn aside after empty things which cannot profit.
 - Trust the LORD will not forsake His people
- ▶ Samuel's promise (12:23)
 - Pray for them
 - Teach them the good and right way

Better than a foolish king (12:24)

- ▶ Fear the LORD
- ▶ Serve the LORD
- ▶ Consider what great things He has done for you
- ▶ Warning for rebellion – no secular king will help!

Saul's foolishness (13-14)

- ▶ Textual uncertainty (13:1)
- ▶ Philistine threat
- ▶ Wherever he turned, he routed them (14:47)
- ▶ Hard fighting all the days of Saul (14:52)
- ▶ A victory by Jonathan (13:2-4) – first appearance

Battle at Michmash (13:5-14:45)

▶ Philistine revenge

- 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, troops like the sand of the sea
- Hebrew desertions (14:21)
- Hiding in rocks and leaving the land (13:6-7) – fear

▶ Seeking divine help (13:8-15)

- Saul presumed to play the role of priest – Numbers 18:7 – capital crime
- Self justification without repentance
- “You have done foolishly” – dynasty terminated
- Need for a man with a heart for the LORD – implies this is not Saul

Battle at Michmash (13:5-14:45)

- ▶ 600 wooden soldiers
- ▶ Jonathan's victory – not “like father like son”
 - Against all odds – 2 men against the hoard of Philistines
 - Climbed up on his hands and feet
 - Panic – and flight – by the LORD (14:6, 10, 12, 20, 23; e.g. 7:10)
- ▶ Saul's presumption
 - Calling for the Ark with grandson of Eli (Ahijah) in attendance
 - Stop the priest – Saul in control again
- ▶ The LORD saved Israel that day

Battle at Michmash (13:5-14:45)

- ▶ Saul's foolish vow (14:24-46)
 - Jonathan's non-willful disobedience
 - Great victory
- ▶ "Piety" of Saul
 - Eating blood (Leviticus 17:10-14) – "cut off"
 - Built an altar – anticipates 15:22
- ▶ Silence from the LORD
 - Casting lots – aware that sin might be the problem
 - Sin against Saul is a capital crime
 - Saul's intent to kill his son blocked by the people

Saul – the foolish king of Israel

- ▶ A secular king
- ▶ The failure of success

Lessons from Saul

- ▶ How can this man save us? (10:27)
- ▶ The deeds of God are righteous (12:7)
 - Fear God
 - Serve God
 - Consider His great deeds for you
- ▶ No peace for the wicked (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21)
 - Nahash is not the problem but the heart of man
 - Need for the Shepherd-King to lead in the paths of righteousness