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
“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