

1. I Samuel 13; 1, 5 - A textual problem

a. An example of a “primitive error” (discussed previously when we did Mark 16)

b. The King James Version followed the Masoretic Text. The New International Version followed the Septuagint.

2. Israel has again grown weak and is at the mercy of their enemies, the Philistines.

3. There is a great contrast between Saul, who now is only paying lip service to the God of Israel, and his son Jonathan who is ready to attempt great things for God.

4. Samuel and the Lord considered Saul’s failure to wait for Samuel a grievous offense because:

a. Saul had no right to usurp the offices of prophet or priest.

b. Saul’s faith was in the strength of his army, not in God.

c. Saul’s attitude was , ‘Incomplete obedience and lack of faith are not important if I just perform the right rituals and pay lip service to God’. (A very modern attitude, also...)

5. Saul’s lack of discernment is evident in the foolish vow he made regarding the ban on eating food on the day of the battle.

a. It was capricious and arbitrary.

b. It was self-centered.

c. It was not made to bring glory to God.

d. It was like Jephthah’s before him and Herod’s after him: all three men were too proud to recognize that they had made a foolish vow and repent of it.

- e. His soldiers rebelled and kept the vow from being carried out.
6. Israel won the battle that day - God chose to bless His people in spite of the sin of the leader. This is unlike what God did when Achan sinned, resulting in defeat at Ai.
- a. God is sovereign.
 - b. God chose to deal with Achan's sin publicly.
 - c. God chose to deal with Saul's sin privately.
 - d. In both cases, the sin was confronted and punished.
 - e. God does not always deal with disobedience in the same fashion - but He does always deal with it.
 - f. The appearance that God had not dealt with Saul's sin was not an accurate one.

STUDY PAGES/NOTES

KNOW THE WORD

WEEK 34, DAY 2

1. We have met Hannah, Eli, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan and today we meet the last major character in this book.
2. "To obey is better than sacrifice and to heed is better than the fat of rams." (I Sam. 15:22) Obedience is the best worship.
3. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart." (I Sam. 16:7) It is what is inside that really counts.
4. Saul deluded himself into thinking that he was the reason for the military victories Israel was experiencing. He even built a monument to himself on Mt. Carmel after the victory over the Amalekites. Saul started out well - he did not finishing well.

5. Saul's true spiritual condition is evidenced in several ways throughout I Sam. 15.
 - a. He hides behind a lie to rationalize his failure to obey.

 - b. When that does not work, he blames it on the people.

 - c. He only cares about saving face before the people when Samuel delivers the message that God has now completely rejected Saul.

6. God gives no reason for His choice of David as the next king, except for the verse previously mentioned - "God looks at the heart."

7. Saul had entered into "reprobation". "The process described in Romans 1 had operated here. When a person rejects God and walks away, he does not often remain without any spiritual influence. Spiritual vacuums tend to be filled, and when the Spirit of God left Saul, another spirit was ready to fill the void."

STUDY PAGES/NOTES

KNOW THE WORD

WEEK 34, DAY 3

1. I Sam. 17 - the famous David and Goliath story

2. One of the perks of defeating the giant Goliath was exemption from taxation for the man and his family - Samuel's "taxation" prediction has already come true.

3. In Chapter 16, David plays his harp for Saul; in Chapter 17, Saul does appear to know him when he comes to fight Goliath. Probably, the king does not remember a hired servant who plays his harp for him while he is under the influence of an evil spirit.

4. The concept of allowing the result of a battle to rest on combat between 2 individuals is not an uncommon one during that period of history.

5. David's faith is clearly rooted in 2 things:

- a. He understands who God is - “the living God - the Lord Almighty.”
 - b. He has a bedrock foundation of personal experience of the faithfulness of God - he has been delivered, while protecting his sheep, from the “paws of the bear” and the “jaws of the lion.”
 - c. “When we know who God is and can reflect upon what He has already done in our own experience, it is not difficult to trust Him for even greater things to come.”
6. The motive of David’s heart: “The whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.”
7. David’s insistence on going into battle with only his sling and 5 smooth stones:
- a. God is not likely to call us to a task for which He has not already equipped us.
 - b. If He sets a mission before us, it is most likely that the instruments and skills by which it is to be accomplished are already in our hands.
 - c. Perhaps the 5 smooth stones picked up by David were for Goliath and his 4 giant brothers.

STUDY PAGES/NOTES

KNOW THE WORD

WEEK 34, DAY 4

1. I Sam. 18 and 19 is the story of David and Jonathan’s great friendship and Saul’s great jealousy of David.
2. Jonathan was not jealous of David, even though he must have known he would never inherit the throne of Israel and despite the pressure his father put on him.
3. David and Jonathan were not homosexual lovers, as some have recently propagated.
4. Saul’s jealousy starts almost immediately after David slays Goliath and he wants David dead.
 - a. he hurls a spear at David twice.
 - b. He puts David at the front of the battle.

- c. In order to marry Merab (part of the promised prize for defeating Goliath), David must keep going into battle. David goes into battle but declines to marry Merab.

 - d. The price to marry his younger daughter Michal is 200 Philistine foreskins. David does this without getting himself killed.

 - e. Saul gives the order to Jonathan and his servants to murder David. They do not.

 - f. Finally David flees as Saul sends his henchmen to kill him in his bed.
6. Psalm 59 reflects David's feelings about all this as he is sitting in Samuel's house. He is willing to wait for God to avenge him, and his confidence is in God.
7. God often designs a period of rejection and humility, and sometimes positive persecution, into His perfect plan of preparation for those who serve Him.
- a. Joseph
 - b. Moses
 - c. The prophets
8. There will be very important lessons about Biblical authority from David's acceptance of suffering as we move through I and 2 Samuel.
9. Michal covered David's escape by using an idol.
10. The almost comical attempt by Saul to capture David:
- a. 3 times he sends his commandos down to capture David at Samuel's house and 3 times they are overpowered by the Spirit of God and end up prophesying with the prophets.
 - b. Saul himself goes down - the same thing happens, plus he takes off his outer kingly garments and lays out all day and all night, making of himself a public spectacle.
 - c. David remains alive and secure in the knowledge that God is his refuge and Saul the king cannot touch him.

1. Time has elapsed and Jonathan believes his father no longer wished to kill David.

2. The story of David and Jonathan's parting:
 - a. Jonathan kept his covenant with David at great personal cost.

 - b. David later would keep his covenant with Jonathan by seeking out and caring for his crippled son, Mephibosheth.

 - c. In the same way, God has kept His covenant with us, accepting and loving us because of the covenant He made with Jesus Christ.

 - d. David did not appear at the New Moon feast held by Saul, and at which Saul planned to kill him.

3. What about the lies we see in these chapters?
 - 1) Even though lies are recorded, it does not mean they are condoned.

 - 2) The duty to tell what is true does not mean including details that will endanger another person.

 - 3) The recording of an episode involving deception does not imply that the person was acting at the highest level of faith or being a model for our behavior.

4. Samuel did not lie; he just did not tell Saul everything.

Jonathan was perhaps careful to couch his words to his father so that he himself was not actually lying.

David, however, relied on a lie and he did not need to do so. The Bible records it but does not endorse it.

5. However, the villain of this chapter is NOT David, it is Saul.

6. Psalm 11 is not from this time period, but in it David testifies "of his unshakable trust in the Lord."