

# Saul

## 1 Samuel 8 - 15

Israel had been ruled by God through prophets. Now they wanted a king to rule over them.

What are some demands a king will make?

Today we will read about Israel's first king. Let's see what problems Israel now has.

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send Your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word that we are about to study. Help me to learn about Saul, the first king of Israel. Please be with the leaders over us – pastors, teachers, government, police, and others – so that they are good leaders. In Jesus' name. Amen.



### Saul

Samuel, the prophet of God, was old. His sons were prophets over Israel, but they were not God-fearing like their father. Because of this the elders of Israel asked for a king. They also wanted to be like other nations who were ruled by a king.

Samuel didn't like the idea, but he prayed about it. God told him, "It is not you they have rejected as their king, but Me. Listen to what they want, but warn them and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do.

Samuel warned the people, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and put them in his army or he will set some to plow his ground. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. He will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves. He will take a tenth of your grain and he will take your servants and animals."

The people still wanted a king. God chose Saul from the tribe of Benjamin, Kish was his father.

Some donkeys were lost so Saul and his servant went to find them. They didn't find the donkeys but traveled to ask the prophet Samuel. Samuel told them the donkeys were found. He also told Saul that Saul was the man God chose for a king. Samuel anointed Saul as king. Then Samuel said that when they left they would meet some men who would give them bread and the spirit of the Lord would be with Saul. Saul was then to meet Samuel in Gilgal in several days to sacrifice to the Lord.

Things happened just as Samuel said it would. Samuel called the people together at Mizpah to tell them what God said. "I am the God who brought you out of Egypt, but today you have rejected Me by asking for a king."

So God chose Saul for a king. When

Samuel first made the announcement about the new king, Saul hid himself. When he was found the people cried out, "Long live the king!" Saul was taller than anyone else.

Samuel set down some rules, wrote them down and sent the people home.

There was much fighting during Saul's reign, but at first the Lord was with him, and the people rejoiced greatly.

Samuel again reviewed with the people how God had helped them in the past and how He was with the leaders like Moses and Jacob and how when the people disobeyed God, things did not go well. The same would be with a king.

Jonathan, Saul's son, went to fight the Philistines, but didn't tell his dad. The Philistines were afraid because of Jonathan.

Saul gave an unwise command to his men. He told them not to eat at all that day. Jonathan did not hear this command and ate some honey he came across. The other men were very hungry and weak, but Jonathan was refreshed. He said that more Philistines would have been killed that day if the men had eaten.

When Saul heard that Jonathan had disobeyed his command he would have killed his son, but the other soldiers pleaded for him and Jonathan was spared.

One time Saul was at war with the Amalekites. God told Saul to destroy all the people and animals. Saul and his

army killed many of the people and animals, but spared the life of King Agag and some of the best sheep and oxen.

Samuel came to Saul and asked him why he had disobeyed God. At first Saul lied and told Samuel he had done what the LORD said.

Then Saul said, "We kept the animals to sacrifice to God." Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." Samuel then killed the enemy king, Agag.

Samuel left Saul and mourned for him because of Saul's unbelief. Samuel never again went to see King Saul. The LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

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**Outer Aim - God gave His people a king when they asked, but Saul did not stay a faithful king.**

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**What The Story Tells Us** - Fill in the blanks with the correct word then find the answer in the WORD SEARCH. (Words go forward, down and diagonal. One word is backwards in the puzzle.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ was God's prophet in this lesson.
- Israel asked for a \_\_\_\_\_.
- God told Samuel, "It is not you they have \_\_\_\_\_ as their king, but Me."
- \_\_\_\_\_ was chosen as the first king of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was his son. This son fought against the \_\_\_\_\_.
- This son ate \_\_\_\_\_ and disobeyed a law Saul had made.

7. Saul disobeyed God's law by burning a \_\_\_\_\_ instead of waiting for Samuel to do it.

8. One time Saul and the army were to destroy the enemies, the \_\_\_\_\_ and all their \_\_\_\_\_.

9. Instead they kept the best animals and spared the life of the enemy, King \_\_\_\_\_, whom Samuel later had to kill.

10. The LORD \_\_\_\_\_ that He had made Saul king over Israel.

Y	S	O	A	N	I	M	A	L	S	P	P
U	J	A	K	O	R	O	M	D	A	H	H
R	O	W	M	P	E	H	N	S	U	A	I
E	N	D	Y	U	J	G	V	O	L	I	L
G	A	M	A	L	E	K	I	T	E	S	I
R	T	G	H	W	C	L	I	A	V	R	S
E	H	P	A	S	T	F	Q	N	N	A	T
T	A	L	L	G	E	Y	S	M	G	E	I
T	N	K	N	I	D	E	A	C	I	L	N
E	K	A	B	K	H	H	O	N	E	Y	E
D	E	C	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S

**What God Tells Us** - God wants us to remember His chosen representatives in our prayers asking God to guide them. Make a list of some of these leaders in your life. Then write a prayer about one of these representatives and take turns sharing your prayers.

LEADERS AT HOME

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LEADERS AT CHURCH &  
SCHOOL

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LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT

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**Prayer**

**Your Turn** - Read the following passage.

*Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey God rather than men.*

Give an example of when you may have to obey God and His Word rather than one of God's representatives.

## Passages

1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding.

## Hymn - TLH #295 v. 1, 5, 6

The Law of God is good and wise  
And sets His will before our eyes,  
Shows us the way of righteousness,  
And dooms to death when we transgress.

The Law is good; but since the Fall,  
Its holiness condemns us all;  
It dooms us for our sin to die  
And has no power to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee,  
Who from the curse has set us free,  
And humbly worship at His throne,  
Saved by His grace through faith alone. Amen

## Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, who clearly shows us what You wish for us to do and to avoid doing in Your Word, prevent us from following our own ways when they are contrary to what You expect of us. Give us the desire and the strength to follow where You lead us. When we fail to do as we should, lead us to ask Your forgiveness and comfort us with the assurance that our sins are forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.