

Altitude 6'4"
Location sittin up front.
Aggie Pilot

Israel
Family

Rev. 11:

STUDY #3 IN THE LIFE OF KING SAUL

I Samuel 11:1-15

TEXT:

- v. 1 Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you."
- v. 2 But Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel."
- v. 3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you."
- v. 4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud.
- v. 5 Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, "What is wrong with the people? Why are they weeping?" Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.
- v. 6 When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger.
- v. 7 He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel." Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.
- v. 8 When Saul mustered them at Bezek, the men of Israel numbered three hundred thousand and the men of Judah thirty thousand.
- v. 9 They told the messengers who had come, "Say to the men of Jabesh Gilead, 'By the time the sun is hot tomorrow, you will be delivered.'" When the messengers went and reported this to the men of Jabesh, they were elated.
- v. 10 They said to the Ammonites, "Tomorrow we will surrender to you, and you can do to us whatever seems good to you."
- v. 11 The next day Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.
- v. 12 The people then said to Samuel, "Who was it that asked, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring these men to us and we will put them to death."
- v. 13 But Saul said, "No one shall be put to death today, for this day the Lord has rescued Israel."
- v. 14 Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there reaffirm the kingship."
- v. 15 So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the Lord. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.

Life of Saul
Too Tall

John 12:24, 25
Deny Himself
Gal 2:20

-2- John 3:30

Contentment to Fulfill His will

INTRODUCTION:

Breidlove in his thesis The Spiritual and Psychological Failure of Saul points out "At the same time, this new leader was to continually remember that these his followers were God's people. The king himself must be supremely concerned that in this powerful position he never usurp God's final authority. Therefore, both his personal life and his public life must become models of submission and obedience. It is on this clearly-defined task that Saul comes to disaster. His failure personally is a spiritual one because it was inevitably a failure to obey the task that God had given him. Because it was a failure in the realm of his function as king, it also carried with it drastic repercussions in his political life. And because he never reacted to his sinful acts in a godly manner, he was forced to suffer the consequences; in this case, a psychological breakdown."

Had Every Thing!!

In our first two studies we have noted God granting the request of the people in providing a king. It was their desire to be like other nations. And through the lost donkey episode, Samuel and Saul are brought together and Saul is anointed as king.

In our second episode, we noted together the preparations for the coronation and the public selection of Saul as the new king.

We are now prepared to see Saul in his first military campaign.

Delitzsch points out "Even after the election by lot at Mizpah, Saul did not seize upon the reigns of government at once, but returned to his father's house in Gibeah and to his former agricultural occupation; not however merely from personal humility and want of ambition, but rather from a correct estimate of the circumstances. A monarchy was something so new in Israel that the king could not expect a general and voluntary recognition of his regal dignity and authority, especially after the conduct of the worthless people mentioned in chapter 10:27, until he had answered their expectations from a king and proved himself a deliverer of Israel from its foes by a victorious campaign. But as Jehovah had chosen him ruler over his people without any seeking on his part, he would wait for higher instructions to act before he entered upon the government. The opportunity was soon given him."

Psalm 27:14

Blaikie points out "Primitive though the state of society was in those days in Israel, we are hardly prepared to find Saul following the herd in the field after his election as king of Israel. We are compelled to conclude that the opposition to him was far from contemptible in number and in influence, and that he found it expedient in the meantime to make no demonstration of royalty, but continue his old way of life. It is quite conceivable that had Saul at once assumed the style and title of royalty, those children of Belial who were so contemptuous

God's People

Submission + Obedience

1 Background
2. Potential
3. Provision
Self-Conscious.

Would wait for further instructions
wish He would do this later

The Lord will Always provide the opportunity
At the right time!!

Ecc. 3:11
Hab. 2:3
Gal. 4:4,5

-3-

at his election would have made away with him. Human life was of so little value in those Eastern countries, and the crime of destroying it was so little thought of, that if Saul had in any way provoked hostility, he would have been almost certain to fall by some assassin's hand. It was therefore wise of him to continue for a time in his old way of living and wait for some opportunity which should arise providentially to vindicate his title to the scepter of Israel.

It was probably about a month after the coronation that the events of this chapter take place.

v. 1 Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you."

These folks who are dwelling on the east side of Jordan have often been exposed to attacks by the enemy because of the well-watered and well-sheltered pastures that dot the landscape of this territory.

The entire nation of Israel had been under the control of the Ammonites for 18 years before Jephthah, one of the judges, brought about a liberation of the people.

I am certain the Ammonites have not forgotten this defeat and are very desirous to reacquire some of the land that they lost in those battles.

Blaikie points out that "The people of Jabesh Gilead either knew not or cared not for their real defense, the God of Israel, for they found themselves too hard beset by the Ammonites and exhausted probably by the weary seige, they proposed terms of capitulation."

The inhabitants saw no possible of help from the Israelites on the west of Jordan because they were not only at a distance, but they were hardly able to fight off the Philistines from themselves.

They had lost the virtue of Israelites, else they would not have thus lost the valor of Israelites, nor have yielded to serve the Ammonites.

① Christian Principles
With the departure of conviction and character also goes courage. The desire to achieve and to make something out of life is replaced with the desire to yield, to drift, to give up and to submit. Such is the case here in this first verse of chapter 11. ***

v. 2 But Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel."

About A
Month After
Coronation-

Targets because
of Pastures
When the
Enemy

Elisha's
Servant
1, 2
1,000 - 2,000,
3,000

Loss of
Virtue
Results
Loss of
Valor!!

McGee points out "This was a very strong ugly demand made by Nahash on the men of Jabesh. They certainly needed deliverance."

Because of this very difficult condition placed by Nahash upon the men of Jabesh Gilead, you know that he was seeking revenge upon the people of Israel for the prior defeat that the Ammonites had experienced under Japhthah's leadership.

Like total Surrender!!

The putting out of the right eye would render them ineffectual as warriors in the future because the shield often covered the left eye when a man was doing battle.

v. 3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you."

Trying to work it out on their own.

The city council, after discussing this horrible condition placed upon them by the Ammonites, request a week to send messengers to Israel and also to deliberate the matter themselves personally.

Nahash has to feel pretty confident about the ultimate outcome of this campaign since he is being so benevolent in allowing 7 days to have Jabesh Gilead to contact the rest of Israel. It probably will make him look a lot better if there is no one who comes to rescue these folks at this time, and so Nahash is willing to go along with their suggestion.

How Soon we Forget!!

v. 4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud.

The people in their weeping are expressing once again their unbelief in God's ability to protect and to liberate them. This was the case when the children of Israel were standing at the shores of the Red Sea, having been liberated from the land of Egypt; but now Pharaoh's armies were following behind them. This is also true when they come up to Kadesh-Barnea to enter into the land that the report of the spies also brings the same response.

Ph. 1.4:13 Greater is He that is

v. 5 Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, "What is wrong with the people? Why are they weeping?" Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.

when the
Enemy shall
come in like
A Flood

Saul had been out working all day in the fields, and when he comes in, he finds the people all weeping. So he raises two questions: 1 "What is wrong with the people?" and 2 "Why are they weeping?"

Revenge
for Jephthah's
Victory!!

Sadness
Messages in
wrong direction
Ps. 50:15

Just
Remember!!
Jer. 32:27
33:3
Isaiah 7:14

Red Sea
Jordan

Nobody praying
seeing God's
Face!!

He then receives the report which had been given by the men of Jabesh earlier.

v. 6 When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger.

Saul's anger burned because of the Ammonites, because of the attitude of the men of Jabesh Gilead, and also over the tears of his own folks.

v. 7 He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel." Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.

McGee points out "Notice how Saul identifies himself with Samuel. I do not think at this particular time that Saul's name could have stood alone. When Saul asked the people to come and linked his name with Samuel's name, however, the people came. They also came because of two main fears: They were afraid of Saul and also fearful of what the Ammonites might do to them."

Saul prepares a bold object lesson and sends it by messengers throughout Israel with the warning that those who choose not to support his campaign against the Ammonites will have their own oxen destroyed.

As the Spirit of God came upon Saul in power, so the terror of the Lord fell on the people and they turned out as one man.

"The Lord can get results, let Him work..."

v. 8 When Saul mustered them at Bezek, the men of Israel numbered three hundred thousand and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

With only 7 days of reprieve given to the folks at Jabesh Gilead, it was necessary for haste to be the order of the day in order to get organized and confront the Ammonites in such a short time.

I believe this is the reason that Saul takes such drastic measures in proclaiming the threat that he does, and also the fact that he identifies himself with Samuel; and third, the terror of the Lord that fell upon the people caused this tremendous crowd of men who were willing to protect the nation.

v. 9 They told the messengers who had come, "Say to the men of Jabesh Gilead, 'By the time the sun is hot tomorrow, you will be delivered.'" When the messengers went and reported this to the men of Jabesh, they were elated.

God is Faithful !!

ISA 40:31
41:10

I Thess. 5:23

Order of
the names
Saul & Samuel

5 or 6
days what
a Mobilization

The messengers from Jabesh who had been waiting to see the result of Saul's appeal were now dispatched with this message to their fellow citizens: Tomorrow you will have help when the sun shines hot, or about noon.

The Seventh day !!

The messengers are to go back and tell the inhabitants that the cavalry is coming.

Cavalry

When the messengers went and reported this to the residents of Jabesh they were elated.

v.10 They said to the Ammonites, "Tomorrow we will surrender to you, and you can do to us whatever seems good to you."

To get the Ammonites off guard, they give them a report of activities through the first six days, and since the seventh day is on the morrow in the completion of the time period allowed, the residents of Jabesh Gilead tell the Ammonites that they will surrender to them, and they can put out their right eyes or do whatever seems good to them.

v.11 The next day Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

Saul divided his men into three large groups. Then the three groups went after the Ammonites and slew them, scattering them so that there was not two of them left together that survived. Each one of them fled by themselves.

Saul uses Gideon's plan of three companies. Only in this situation, with 330,000 he can put 110,000 into each of the three groups; whereas Gideon only had 100 in each group.

The time of the attack is during the last watch of the night, which would be sometime between 3 and 6 o'clock in the morning. The Ammonites were totally unsuspecting, having believed the story told by the men of Jabesh, that they were going to surrender to them on the next day.

v.12 The people then said to Samuel, "Who was it that asked, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring these men to us and we will put them to death."

McGee points out "Some of the Israelites opposed the idea of having Saul as their king. Samuel ignored that opposition until the nation was united in favor of Saul. Saul's leadership in dealing with the Ammonites took care of the resistance."

The Lord has a way of vindicating His own !!

1st God
be for us...
It's all
in context!
II Cor 2:14

Delitzsch points out "Saul had so thoroughly acted the part of a king in gaining this victory and the people were so enthusiastic in his favor, that they said to Samuel after their return from the battle, 'Who is he that said, 'Saul should reign over us?'" It is their desire in the midst of this enthusiastic victory that these who would be opposing his leadership should be put out of the way."

v.13 But Saul said, "No one shall be put to death today, for this day the Lord has rescued Israel."

Why a needless massacre on this day when it is the Lord who has given the victory.

It is Blaikie who says: "Oh Saul, Saul, how well for thee it would have been hadst thou maintained this spirit. For then God would not have had to reject thee from being king and to seek among the sheep folds of Bethlehem a man after his own heart to be the leader of his people. And then you would have had no fear for the security of your throne. You would not have hunted your rival like a partridge on the mountains, and never, never would you have been tempted in your difficulties to seek counsel from a woman with a familiar spirit, on the plea that God was departed from you. As we are thinking how well Saul had acted on this occasion, we perceive that an old friend had come on the scene who helps us materially to understand the situation. Yes, he is all the better of Samuels' guidance and prayers. The good old prophet has no jealousy of the man who took his place as head of the nation. But knowing well the fickleness of the people, he is anxious to turn the occasion to account for confirming their feelings and their aims. Seeing how the king has acknowledged God as the author of the victory, he desires to strike while the iron is hot."

v.14 Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there reaffirm the kingship."

It was at Gilgal where the people crossed over into the land and began to possess it under Joshua's leadership.

v.15 So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the Lord. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.

Now all Israel accepts Saul as king. Just as in our own land we have an election in November and an inauguration in the following January, so with King Saul. He has been elected by the majority of the people, and now there is a total uniting of the people on this occasion under his leadership.

Fellowship offerings

Difference between Relationship + Fellowship

Blaikie points out "And thus, under Samuel's guidance, the kingdom was renewed. Thus did both Saul and the people give unto the Lord the glory due to His name. And engaging in the ceremonial as they all did in this spirit, both Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly. It was perhaps the happiest occasion in all the reign of Saul. What contributed the chief element of brightness to the occasion was the sunshine of heaven. God was there smiling on His children. There were other elements too. Samuel was there, happy that Saul had conquered, that he had established himself upon the throne; and above all, that he had, in a right, noble way, acknowledged God as the author of the victory at Jabesh Gilead. Saul was there, reaping the reward of his humility, his forbearance, his courage and his activity. The people were there, proud of their king, proud of his magnificent appearance, but prouder of the super eminent qualities that had marked the commencement of his reign. Nor was the pleasure of anyone marred by any ugly blot or unworthy deed throwing a gloom over the transaction."

The enthusiastic admiration of the people under the impulsive, grateful and generous feelings would have dealt some vengeance on the minority who opposed Saul had not he, either from principle or policy shown himself as great in clemency as in valor.

Kirk points out "Had Saul then ended his reign, he might have been fitly ranked among the best and most illustrious warriors of the nation. His moral and religious qualities were as conspicuous as his military. And from such a brilliant beginning, Samuel and the nation, we can well believe, confidently anticipated one of the brightest and most successful of careers."

Can't be trusted with more success because we would get the Big head!!

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular passage?

LESSON #1: When we wait for the Lord, He will provide the opportunity *For* ~~to provide~~ a full expression of His will.

xian Principles

LESSON #2: With the departure of ~~conviction~~ and character, also goes courage.

Virtue → Valor

LESSON #3: The price of compromise is very high.

LESSON #4: Saul continues to be a farmer until the Lord provides the opportunity to take the leadership.

4:1

It is of no use, then, for us to examine self and to tinker with it in the hope of improving it, for the thing the Lord wants us to do with it is to get rid of it. Fenelon, in his Spiritual Letters, says that the only way to treat self is to refuse to have anything to do with it. He says we must turn our backs on this great big "I" of ours, and to say to it, "I do not know you, and am not interested in you, and I refuse to pay any attention to you whatever." But self is always determined to secure attention, and would rather be thought badly of than not to be thought of at all. And self-examination with all its miseries often gives a sort of morbid satisfaction to the self-life in us, and even deludes self into thinking it a very humble and pious sort of self after all.

The only safe and scriptural way is to have nothing to do with self at all, either with good self or with bad self, but simply to ignore self altogether; and to

fix our eyes, and our thoughts, and our expectations on the Lord and on Him alone. We must substitute for the personal pronouns "I," "me," "my," the pronoun "He," "Him," "His"; and must ask ourselves, not "am I good?" but "is He good?"

The psalmist says: "Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he shall pluck my feet out of the net."

THE GOD WHO IS ENOUGH, Smith, pp. 140,141

Mom & Dad.

I thought maybe Dad would understand this card from his Pac-Man days.
I really feel that I have not shown my true love toward you two this last year. I could blame it on the miles that separate us but that would be a lame excuse. As I have done most of my life I have to ask for your forgiveness for my non-recognition of your never ending love for me. It's so easy to take advantage of people who love you, the way you love me. I have really had a tough time dealing with the fact that I also take advantage of our Lord's love the way I have with your love. I love you both, I really do and I am thankful for all that you have and are doing for me.

Thanks for being my
best friends Mom + Dad.

Love,

Andy

HOME WHERE I BELONG by B. J. Thomas

"There's no way to tell you but straight out," she said. "I've become a Christian and have turned my life over to Jesus Christ. He is the answer to why I am different."

I'd heard it a million times before--not a few times from Gloria herself--but this was different. This "turning your life over" business was a whole new ballgame. It sounded so real, so personal, so concrete. Not the abstract religious jargon I had been used to. I didn't tell Gloria, but it also sounded attractive to an otherwise hopeless drug addict. It was some idea--turning your whole life over to someone else. I sure hadn't done much with it on my own.

But I had other things on my mind, like getting some rest. Gloria didn't press the subject or badger me about smoking pot around the house. I had wondered how she would react to my still being an addict, but it didn't seem to make any difference to

her. She was just loving me and accepting me the way I was. It was saying ten times more to me than words ever could have.

She wanted me to stay. "I'd really like to," I said. "I love you and I think I always have. But haven't I already destroyed us? Do I have a right to even think of coming back for good?" We'd been through it so many times before.

All the while I was thinking hard about staying, I was making a conscious effort to put off any confrontation with God, and especially with the ^{couple} (Jim and Micah) Gloria talked about. I was content to watch whatever it was work in Gloria's life. It sounded like a commitment far beyond my capabilities.

It meant a lot to me that Paige had prayed I would come home. I had never been anyone's answer to prayer before. And this was different than any kind of prayer I had been used to. This was really getting down to it with God and expecting him to answer specifically.

HOME WHERE I BELONG by B. J. Thomas

As a child she had been led to understand that "if you did this you were this kind of a person and if you did that you were that kind of a person. God was a faraway Person who came to me in a little Book I couldn't understand. All I knew was that I was supposed to be good, whatever that meant. I was taught no principles, and half the time I felt like a bad girl without knowing why. I believe I asked Jesus to come into my heart as a child. That made an eternal difference, but my life wasn't transformed until years later when I finally decided to live by God's principles on faith.

"For once the emphasis was not on being either a good girl or a bad girl but on developing a relationship with Jesus Christ. Finally, I had received some teaching on how to live by God's standards. Life wasn't a cruel joke on me. There was a way to attain complete happiness and peace regardless of circumstances.

There had to be a way, and I was going to find it."

LESSON #5: The Lord always gives the victory when we are walking in His will.

LESSON #6: Saul's humility is expressed in the phrase "The Lord has rescued Israel."

LESSON #7: The joy that is expressed is from the Lord.

Joy is the flag that flies from the spirit

Saul cannot be trusted with Success.
At the point of Victory we are the most vulnerable.

Where do you look when you are in trouble?

Jehoshaphat —

Fast

Prayer — eyes upon thee. . .

Battle is the Lord's.

Are you in Relationship
" " " Fellowship

Never see Saul expressing Love + Kindness . . .

I Talk Back to the Devil by A. W. Tozer

There is this thoughtful phrase in "The Cloud of Unknowing": He wills thou do but look on Him and let Him alone." Let God alone. In other words, let Him work! Don't stop Him. Don't prevent Him from kindling your heart, from blessing you and leading you out of a common state into that of special longing after Him. You don't have to coax God. He is not like a reluctant father waiting for his child to beg. The blessings are His to give and He waits for us to let Him work.

This is a very hard thing for Americans to do because we are naturally-born "do-it-yourself" artists! We don't just hire a plumber and let him do his work—we stand by and tell him how it should be done. It is amazing really that any American ever lies down and allows the doctor to perform the operation. We always want to get our finger in, and that is the way most Christians behave. We think God does the really hard jobs, but that He is

glad to have us along to help out. *and handle all the little stuff -*

p. 44-45
~~not 67~~

Relationship

"Look on Him - and let Him work, let Him alone." Get your hands down to your side and stop trying to tell God where to cut. ~~Stop trying to tell God what to diagnosis for God. Stop trying to tell God what to give you. He is the Physician! You are the patient. This is good doctrine, brethren. Dr. A. B. Simpson shocked and blessed and helped dear people in all Christian groups as he taught this truth down through the years - "let God work! Let Him alone! Take your hands off! It is God that worketh in you!" Let Him work and your spiritual life will begin to blaze like the rising sun.~~

~~not 67~~