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What You Need to Know About SAUL

"The King with the Unsurrendered Will and the Unrepentant Heart"

STUDY NUMBER ONE - 1 SAMUEL 9:1-27

NOTES

v. 1 There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin.
v. 2 He had a son named Saul, an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites—a head taller than any of the others.
v. 3 Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys."
v. 4 So he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and through the area around Shalisha, but they did not find them. They went on into the district of Shaalim, but the donkeys were not there. Then he passed through the territory of Benjamin, but they did not find them.
v. 5 When they reached the district of Zuph, Saul said to the servant who was with him, "Come, let's go back, or my father will stop thinking about the donkeys and start worrying about us."
v. 6 But the servant replied, "Look, in this town there is a man of God; he is highly respected, and everything he says comes true. Let's go there now. Perhaps he will tell us what way to take."
v. 7 Saul said to his servant, "If we go, what can we give the man? The food in our sacks is gone. We have no gift to take to the man of God. What do we have?"
v. 8 The servant answered him again. "Look," he said, "I have a quarter of a shekel of silver. I will give it to the man of God so that he will tell us what way to take."
v. 9 (Formerly in Israel, if a man went to inquire of God, he would say, "Come, let us go to the seer," because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.)
v. 10 "Good," Saul said to his servant. "Come, let's go." So they set out for the town where the man of God was.

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v. 11 As they were going up the hill to the town, they met some girls coming out to draw water, and they asked them, “Is the seer here?”
v. 12 “He is,” they answered. “He’s ahead of you. Hurry now; he has just come to our town today, for the people have a sacrifice at the high place.
v. 13 As soon as you enter the town, you will find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. The people will not begin eating until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward, those who are invited will eat. Go up now; you should find him about this time.”
v. 14 They went up to the town, and as they were entering it, there was Samuel, coming toward them on his way up to the high place.
v. 15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel:
v. 16 “About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him leader over my people Israel; he will deliver my people from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked upon my people, for their cry has reached me.”
v. 17 When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the Lord said to him, “This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people.”
v. 18 Saul approached Samuel in the gateway and asked, “Would you please tell me where the seer’s house is?”
v. 19 “I am the seer,” Samuel replied. “Go up ahead of me to the high place, for today you are to eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart.
v. 20 As for the donkeys you lost three days ago, do not worry about them; they have been found. And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned, if not to you and all your father’s family?”
v. 21 Saul answered, “But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?”
v. 22 Then Samuel brought Saul and his servant into the hall and seated them at the head of those who were invited—about thirty in number.
v. 23 Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the piece of meat I gave you, the one I told you to lay aside.”
v. 24 So the cook took up the leg with what was on it and set it in front of Saul. Samuel said, “Here is what has been kept for you. Eat, because it was set aside for you for this occasion, from the time I said, ‘I have invited guests.’” And Saul dined with Samuel that day.
v. 25 After they came down from the high place to the town, Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house.
v. 26 They rose about daybreak and Samuel called to Saul on the roof, “Get ready, and I will send you on your way.” When Saul got ready, he and Samuel went outside together.
v. 27 As they were going down to the edge of the town, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the servant to go on ahead of us”—and the servant did so—”but you stay here awhile, so that I may give you a message from God.”

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-27 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How is Saul described in verse 2?

3. Describe the problem facing Saul in verses 3-5.

4. What is the servant's advice, according to verse 6?

5. How had the Lord been preparing Samuel for his meeting with Saul, according to verses 15 & 16?

6. Summarize the conversation between Samuel and Saul in verses 19-21.

7. What did Samuel do for Saul in verses 22-24?

8. Why does Samuel delay Saul in verse 27?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: How sensitive we must be to God's direction when it seems to run contrary to our desires.

LESSON #2: Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks upon the heart.

LESSON #3: God sometimes uses negative and insignificant happenings in our lives to the accomplishment of His purpose.

LESSON #4: How perfect is the Lord's timing in the happening of events in our lives.

LESSON #5: Samuel's humble and obedient heart is revealed in his treatment of Saul on this occasion.

LESSON #6: The tragedy of Saul's life is that he did not hear and heed the message from God that was coming through Samuel.

LESSON #7: A man's maturity is best reflected when he is still supportive after being set aside.

LESSON #8: Saul is superficial and self-centered.

LESSON #9: Before we become Christians, we play God in our own lives and afterwards in the lives of others.

LESSON #10: Life was designed by God to be impossible without Him.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWO - 1 SAMUEL 10:1-27 NOTES

v. 1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the Lord anointed you leader over his inheritance?

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v. 2 When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, 'The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, "What shall I do about my son?"'
v. 3 Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine.
v. 4 They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.
v. 5 After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying.
v. 6 The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.
v. 7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.
v. 8 Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do."
v. 9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.
v. 10 When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.
v. 11 When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"
v. 12 A man who lived there answered, "And who is their father?" So it became a saying: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"
v. 13 After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the high place.
v. 14 Now Saul's uncle asked him and his servant, "Where have you been?" "Looking for the donkeys," he said. "But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel."
v. 15 Saul's uncle said, "Tell me what Samuel said to you."
v. 16 Saul replied, "He assured us that the donkeys had been found." But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.
v. 17 Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the Lord at Mizpah
v. 18 and said to them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.'
v. 19 But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your calamities and distresses. And you have said, 'No, set a king over us.' So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans."
v. 20 When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.
v. 21 Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.

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v. 22 So they inquired further of the Lord, “Has the man come here yet?” And the Lord said, “Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”
v. 23 They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others.
v. 24 Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.” Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!”
v. 25 Samuel explained to the people the regulations of the kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the Lord. Then Samuel dismissed the people, each to his own home.
v. 26 Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched.
v. 27 But some troublemakers said, “How can this fellow save us?” They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 10:1-27 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Samuel do to Saul, according to verse 1?

3. Outline the signs which Samuel gives to Saul in verses 2-6.

4. What does Samuel command Saul to do after the signs are fulfilled in verse 7?

5. What happened to Saul, according to verse 9?

6. What information did Saul withhold from his uncle, according to verse 16?

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7. Where was Saul when it was time for him to be crowned king over Israel, according to verse 22?

8. How did Saul handle the opposition, according to verse 27?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: God never violates our free will. He often grants our request, but sends leanness into our souls.

LESSON #2: There will be evidences in our pathway that the Lord is directing our steps.

LESSON #3: Have you been changed into a different person because you have come to know Jesus Christ by faith?

LESSON #4: Has anybody ever asked you the question: What has happened to you?

LESSON #5: Are you sensitive, submissive, and obedient to God's Word, as far as you know?

LESSON #6: Has God touched your heart and rearranged your priorities?

LESSON #7: The last thing to go in the pursuit of the abundant life is pride and self-sufficiency.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER THREE - 1 SAMUEL 11:1-15

NOTES

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.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 11:1-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. Describe the treaty sought by Nahash the Ammonite in verse 2.

3. Describe Saul's response to the treaty in verses 6-8.

4. What report is given to the men of Jabesh Gilead by the messengers in verse 10?

5. How do the people respond to the victory in verse 12?

6. How does Saul analyze the victory, according to verse 13?

7. What is Samuel's advice in verse 14?

8. What do the people do in verse 15?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

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

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

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.

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.

LESSON #8: Saul cannot be trusted with success. At the point of your victory, you're most vulnerable.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOUR - 1 SAMUEL 13:1-14

NOTES

v. 1 Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-two years.
v. 2 Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Micmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes.
v. 3 Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, "Let the Hebrews hear!"
v. 4 So all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become a stench to the Philistines." And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

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v. 5 The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Micmash, east of Beth Aven.
v. 6 When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns.
v. 7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.
v. 8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter.
v. 9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering.
v. 10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.
v. 11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash,
v. 12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."
v. 13 "You have acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.
v. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 13:1-14 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What are the statistics of Saul's age and reign, according to verse 1?

3. Describe Saul's military preparations in verse 2.

4. Describe the military preparations by the Philistines in verses 5-7.

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5. What does Saul do because Samuel delays in his coming, according to verse 9?

6. How does Saul explain himself to Samuel in verses 11 & 12?

7. What is Samuel's response in verses 13 & 14?

8. What action has the Lord taken, according to verse 14?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Saul has begun to take credit for what the Lord has done through Jonathan.

LESSON #2: Fear and discouragement are the result of getting our eyes on circumstances.

LESSON #3: Saul is being tested with regard to divine authority and the obedient heart.

LESSON #4: Expediency never takes priority over obedience.

LESSON #5: Self-justification often accompanies the disobedient heart.

LESSON #6: You will always make a mistake when you take matters into your own hands.

LESSON #7: Dependence or lack of it is revealed in periods of delay (Galatians 5:16, 17).

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LESSON #8: When you act with the limitations of your own wisdom and circumstances you will always act foolishly.

LESSON #9: The Lord wants to do His thing in the midst of impossible circumstances.

LESSON #10: When you get your eyes off the Lord and on your circumstances, you'll have an uncontrollable urge to act in some way.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIVE - 1 SAMUEL 14:1-45

NOTES

v. 1 One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father.
v. 2 Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men,
v. 3 among whom was Ahijah, who was wearing an ephod. He was a son of Ichabod's brother Ahitub son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the Lord's priest in Shiloh. No one was aware that Jonathan had left.
v. 4 On each side of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine outpost was a cliff; one was called Bozez, and the other Seneh.
v. 5 One cliff stood to the north toward Micmash, the other to the south toward Geba.
v. 6 Jonathan said to his young armorbearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."
v. 7 "Do all that you have in mind," his armorbearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."
v. 8 Jonathan said, "Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us.
v. 9 If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them.
v. 10 But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the Lord has given them into our hands."
v. 11 So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. "Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in."
v. 12 The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armorbearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson." So Jonathan said to his armorbearer, "Climb up after me; the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel."

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v. 13 Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armorbearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armorbearer followed and killed behind him.
v. 14 In that first attack Jonathan and his armorbearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre.
v. 15 Then panic struck the whole army—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. It was a panic sent by God.
v. 16 Saul's lookouts at Gibeah in Benjamin saw the army melting away in all directions.
v. 17 Then Saul said to the men who were with him, "Muster the forces and see who has left us." When they did, it was Jonathan and his armorbearer who were not there.
v. 18 Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God." (At that time it was with the Israelites.)
v. 19 While Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the Philistine camp increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."
v. 20 Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords.
v. 21 Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.
v. 22 When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit.
v. 23 So the Lord rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven.
v. 24 Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, "Cursed be any man who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!" So none of the troops tasted food.
v. 25 The entire army entered the woods, and there was honey on the ground.
v. 26 When they went into the woods, they saw the honey oozing out, yet no one put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath.
v. 27 But Jonathan had not heard that his father had bound the people with the oath, so he reached out the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb. He raised his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened.
v. 28 Then one of the soldiers told him, "Your father bound the army under a strict oath, saying, 'Cursed be any man who eats food today!' That is why the men are faint."
v. 29 Jonathan said, "My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened when I tasted a little of this honey.
v. 30 How much better it would have been if the men had eaten today some of the plunder they took from their enemies. Would not the slaughter of the Philistines have been even greater?"
v. 31 That day, after the Israelites had struck down the Philistines from Micmash to Aijalon, they were exhausted.
v. 32 They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood.

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v. 33 Then someone said to Saul, “Look, the men are sinning against the Lord by eating meat that has blood in it.” “You have broken faith,” he said. “Roll a large stone over here at once.”
v. 34 Then he said, “Go out among the men and tell them, ‘Each of you bring me your cattle and sheep, and slaughter them here and eat them. Do not sin against the Lord by eating meat with blood still in it.’” So everyone brought his ox that night and slaughtered it there.
v. 35 Then Saul built an altar to the Lord; it was the first time he had done this.
v. 36 Saul said, “Let us go down after the Philistines by night and plunder them till dawn, and let us not leave one of them alive.” “Do whatever seems best to you,” they replied. But the priest said, “Let us inquire of God here.”
v. 37 So Saul asked God, “Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into Israel’s hand?” But God did not answer him that day.
v. 38 Saul therefore said, “Come here, all you who are leaders of the army, and let us find out what sin has been committed today.
v. 39 As surely as the Lord who rescues Israel lives, even if it lies with my son Jonathan, he must die.” But not one of the men said a word.
v. 40 Saul then said to all the Israelites, “You stand over there; I and Jonathan my son will stand over here.” “Do what seems best to you,” the men replied.
v. 41 Then Saul prayed to the Lord, the God of Israel, “Give me the right answer.” And Jonathan and Saul were taken by lot, and the men were cleared.
v. 42 Saul said, “Cast the lot between me and Jonathan my son.” And Jonathan was taken.
v. 43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, “Tell me what you have done.” So Jonathan told him, “I merely tasted a little honey with the end of my staff. And now must I die?”
v. 44 Saul said, “May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you do not die, Jonathan.”
v. 45 But the men said to Saul, “Should Jonathan die—he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the Lord lives, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he did this today with God’s help.” So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-45 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Summarize Jonathan’s words in verse 6.

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3. What is the armorbearer's response in verse 7?

4. Describe Saul's response to the panic among the Philistines.

5. Who gets the credit for the victory, according to verse 23?

6. Describe your feelings about Jonathan's actions in verses 24-34.

7. What does Saul do, according to verse 35?

8. How does Saul handle a lack of response from the Lord in verses 37-45?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Jonathan is a man of God, moving ahead in faith, believing that God wants to give him the victory.

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LESSON #2: God still uses individuals to accomplish great things in His purpose.

LESSON #3: Nothing can hinder the Lord from saying, whether by many or by few.

LESSON #4: As Jonathan and the armor-bearer act in faith, God provides the victory.

LESSON #5: Saul's good judgment has been short-circuited by his pride and jealousy over Jonathan's success.

LESSON #6: Saul's uppermost concern should have been the comfort of his men. His should have been one of servant leadership.

LESSON #7: The Lord delivers Jonathan from the Philistines in the first of the chapter, and from his father in the last of the chapter.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIX - 1 SAMUEL 15:1-35 NOTES

v. 1 Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord.
v. 2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt.
v. 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'"
v. 4 So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men from Judah.
v. 5 Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine.
v. 6 Then he said to the Kenites, "Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.
v. 7 Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt.
v. 8 He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword.
v. 9 But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

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v. 10 Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel:
v. 11 “I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the Lord all that night.
v. 12 Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”
v. 13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.”
v. 14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”
v. 15 Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”
v. 16 “Stop!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” “Tell me,” Saul replied.
v. 17 Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.
v. 18 And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.’
v. 19 Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?”
v. 20 “But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.
v. 21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”
v. 22 But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
v. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”
v. 24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them.
v. 25 Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord.”
v. 26 But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel!”
v. 27 As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the edge of his robe, and it tore.
v. 28 Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you.
v. 29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.”
v. 30 Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord your God.”

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v. 31 So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.
v. 32 Then Samuel said, “Bring me Agag king of the Amalekites.” Agag came to him confidently, thinking, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.”
v. 33 But Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so will your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel put Agag to death before the Lord at Gilgal.
v. 34 Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul.
v. 35 Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the Lord was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What are Samuel’s instructions to Saul in verses 1-3?

3. How is Saul disobedient in verses 8 & 9?

4. What is the Lord’s response in verse 11?

5. Describe Samuel and Saul’s discussion in verses 13-16.

6. How does Samuel describe Saul’s actions in verses 17-19?

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7. How does Saul describe his actions in verses 20 & 21?

8. Describe the tragic results of Saul's disobedience in verses 24-35.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: The obedient heart is what the Lord desires in His children.

LESSON #2: God's justice and judgment is consistent with His love.

LESSON #3: Saul never says, "My God."

LESSON #4: Saul is concerned about his own honor, by the monument that he builds and the act of repentance he performs.

LESSON #5: Obedience is better than sacrifice.

LESSON #6: When God acts, there is no changing of that act.

LESSON #7: There comes a time when grace runs out and judgment must be executed.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER SEVEN - 1 SAMUEL 18:1-30

NOTES

v. 1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.
v. 2 From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house.
v. 3 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.
v. 4 Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.
v. 5 Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well.
v. 6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes.
v. 7 As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."
v. 8 Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?"
v.9 And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.
v. 10 The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand
v. 11 and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.
v. 12 Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had left Saul.
v. 13 So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns.
v. 14 In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him.
v. 15 When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him.
v. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.
v. 17 Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord." For Saul said to himself, "I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!"
v. 18 But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?"
v. 19 So when the time came for Merab, Saul's daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.
v. 20 Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased.
v. 21 "I will give her to him," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." So Saul said to David, "Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law."
v. 22 Then Saul ordered his attendants: "Speak to David privately and say, 'Look, the king is pleased with you, and his attendants all like you; now become his son-in-law.'"

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v. 23 They repeated these words to David. But David said, “Do you think it is a small matter to become the king’s son-in-law? I’m only a poor man and little known.”
v. 24 When Saul’s servants told him what David had said,
v. 25 Saul replied, “Say to David, ‘The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.” Saul’s plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.
v. 26 When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king’s son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed,
v. 27 David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines. He brought their foreskins and presented the full number to the king so that he might become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.
v. 28 When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David,
v. 29 Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days.
v. 30 The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul’s officers, and his name became well known.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-30 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What kind of relationship did David sustain with Jonathan, according to verses 1-4?

3. What precipitated the problem between Saul and David, according to verse 7?

4. Describe Saul’s outburst in verses 10 & 11.

5. Why was Saul fearful of David, according to verse 12?

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6. Why was David so successful, according to verse 14?

7. What was the attitude of Israel toward David, according to verse 16?

8. Describe Saul's feelings toward David, according to verses 28 & 29.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Do you have a close friend who helps to share your load?

LESSON #2: Disobedience toward God leads to distortion and destruction of personal relationships.

LESSON #3: The Lord blesses and prospers those who walk with Him.

LESSON #4: David and Jonathan serve as an illustration of Christian brotherhood.

LESSON #5: Jealousy short circuits good judgment.

LESSON #6: Jealousy and envy will grow into the intent of murder, if it is left unchecked.

LESSON #7: David is protected from the malicious intent of Saul in every one of these encounters.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT - 1 SAMUEL 28:1-25 AND 31:1-13

NOTES

v. 1 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, “You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army.”
v. 2 David said, “Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do.” Achish replied, “Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life.”
v. 3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.
v. 4 The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all the Israelites and set up camp at Gilboa.
v. 5 When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart.
v. 6 He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets.
v. 7 Saul then said to his attendants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her.” “There is one in Endor,” they said.
v. 8 So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. “Consult a spirit for me,” he said, “and bring up for me the one I name.”
v. 9 But the woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?”
v. 10 Saul swore to her by the Lord, “As surely as the Lord lives, you will not be punished for this.”
v. 11 Then the woman asked, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” “Bring up Samuel,” he said.
v. 12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!”
v. 13 The king said to her, “Don’t be afraid. What do you see?” The woman said, “I see a spirit coming up out of the ground.”
v. 14 “What does he look like?” he asked. “An old man wearing a robe is coming up,” she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.
v. 15 Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” “I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has turned away from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do.”
v. 16 Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the Lord has turned away from you and become your enemy?
v. 17 The Lord has done what he predicted through me. The Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David.

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v. 18 Because you did not obey the Lord or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has done this to you today.
v. 19 The Lord will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also hand over the army of Israel to the Philistines."
v. 20 Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of Samuel's words. His strength was gone, for he had eaten nothing all that day and night.
v. 21 When the woman came to Saul and saw that he was greatly shaken, she said, "Look, your maidservant has obeyed you. I took my life in my hands and did what you told me to do.
v. 22 Now please listen to your servant and let me give you some food so you may eat and have the strength to go on your way."
v. 23 He refused and said, "I will not eat." But his men joined the woman in urging him, and he listened to them. He got up from the ground and sat on the couch.
v. 24 The woman had a fattened calf at the house, which she butchered at once. She took some flour, kneaded it and baked bread without yeast.
v. 25 Then she set it before Saul and his men, and they ate. That same night they got up and left.
31:v. 1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell slain on Mount Gilboa.
v. 2 The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua.
v. 3 The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically.
v. 4 Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me." But his armorbearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it.
v. 5 When the armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him.
v. 6 So Saul and his three sons and his armorbearer and all his men died together that same day.
v. 7 When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them.
v. 8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.
v. 9 They cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and they sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among their people.
v. 10 They put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.
v. 11 When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard of what the Philistines had done to Saul,
v. 12 all their valiant men journeyed through the night to Beth Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them.
v. 13 Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-25 and 31:1-13 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe Saul's actions in verses 5-7.

3. What is Saul's request of the woman, according to verse 11?

4. How does Saul respond to Samuel in verse 15?

5. Summarize Samuel's response to Saul in verses 16-19.

6. How was Saul wounded, according to 31:3?

7. What is Saul's request of his armorbearer, according to verse 4?

8. How does Saul meet his final demise, according to verse 4?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: There comes a time when God's grace changes to God's justice and judgment.

LESSON #2: Saul was fearful because he never took time to put his eyes upon the Lord.

LESSON #3: The Scriptures clearly condemn the arts of witchcraft.

LESSON #4: Saul's final act of rebellion is seen in going to the witch at Endor.

LESSON #5: Saul learns nothing new, apart from the fact that in the battle with the Philistines on the morrow, he is going to die.

LESSON #6: The absence of repentance is the key to understanding these tragic events.

LESSON #7: You are bound to lose if you are fighting against God.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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