

Saul's Great Failure

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1 Samuel 13:1-25

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Remember the Background

- 1 Sam 12 - Samuel's summary
- We might think Saul is a success 1 Sam 14:47-48
- Chps 13&14 are the story of Saul's failures

A Storyteller's Trick

- Nahash^{11:1}=serpent
- Saul, like Adam^{Gen3} didn't trust God's Word
- God gave hope of a descendant who would conquer^{Gen3:15}
- We saw Saul crush Nahash=serpent; was he the one?

On to Our Story

- Samuel warned^{8:10-18} that kings would take & Saul did^{14:52}
- Saul and Jonathan had armies^{13:3}; Philistines were provoked
- Saul takes the glory; Like those at Babel^{Gen11:4}

A Difficult Text Problem, but its Good Storytelling

- "Saul was one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for two years over Israel."
- Text is as it was meant to read... 1 yr between anointing^{10:1} and people making Saul king^{11:15}; 2 yrs between that^{11:15} and sad words of kingdom being torn^{15:28}
- Yes, Saul reigned ~40yrs^{Act13:21}; but not as God's king

Saul's failure was more than his Pride

- Jonathan's efforts provoked the Philistines^{13:4}
- Philistines responded massively^{13:5-7} like *sand on seashore!*
- Israelites see multitudes and get very scared^{13:6-7!}

How God wanted His king to Fight

- Samuel clearly instructed Saul on fighting^{10:7-8} Philistines
- Saul took a year to obey^{10:7} but he finally does
- Saul is king of God's people, therefore WAIT 7 days^{10:8}

Saul gets Pragmatic

- Saul gets nervous, army deserting him^{13:8}; Samuel no-show
- Saul 'forced himself' to do Samuel's job of sacrifice
- Saul didn't listen to God's clear word through Samuel

How Fools Try to Come to God

- Saul was a fool^{13:13}; he acted foolishly (in his own wisdom)
- OT: the fool says, "there is no God"^{Psl4:1}
- Fool: someone who lives as though God does not exist or God does not matter – Saul acted as a fool!

The Saddest Thing

- Saul had one job: obey God and lead the people before God
- He didn't have to be perfect, just walk in faith & trust God
- When Saul sinned, he didn't repent, seek God's mercy^{Ex33:19}
- Imagine if he had sought God's forgiveness...
- He simply let it happen, went about his plans

So What do we Learn?

- Saul had a heart issue. Like Adam chose his own rules
- We need a king to rescue us...
- Jesus Christ is that King of God's own choosing!