

Lecture 19- The Rise and Fall of King Saul (IV)

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. "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, 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." "You 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. 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. 1 Sam 13:7b-14

Key Terms

Designation, demonstration, confirmation, provocation, convocation, Saul's rejection, unbelief

Lecture Objectives

- Outline the fall of King Saul, especially noting Samuel's role as God's prophet.
- Describe the reason for Saul's fall and some of the theological issues it raises.
- Identify ways that the episode and results of Saul's disobedience are instructive to us in our Christian life and service.

Preliminary Questions

- Many argue that Saul was simply making a difficult judgment call in the face of a rapidly deteriorating situation. A responsibility required of every leader.
- Describe the issue that was so problematic. What does that teach us regarding our life and service responsibilities?
- Consider the results of Saul's disobedience. Some use this to accuse God of being less than gracious. How would you respond?

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Review of Kings (See appendix A)

Review

Problems:

1. Is the book pro-monarchical or anti-monarchical?
 - * Who is expressing what sentiment toward whom?
2. Different accounts of Saul becoming king
 - * Designation
 - * Demonstration
 - * Confirmation

Gapping = the intentional withholding of information to raise questions, to arouse interest, or to create suspense. Charge

* Provocation 10:7; 13:3

* Convocation 10:8; 13:46, 7b-15a (13:8)

Dr. Long's Ph.D. dissertation – "The Reign and Rejection of King Saul: A Case for Literary and Theological Coherence." This work is available at the Covenant Seminary Library, call number BS 1325.2 .L59 1989.

- I. Before the Monarchy: God Rules and Rescues His People (1 Sam 1-7)
- II. The Beginning of Monarchy: The People Demand a King (1 Sam 8-12)
- III. The Rejection of Israel's First King, The People's Choice (1 Sam 13-15)
 - A. Theological problem concerning the rejection of Saul
 - 1. The theory of the 'peevish prophet'

Does this complaint that Saul's sins were trivial show a deficient understanding of sin? Look at David's sins.

What was God's view toward kingship?

- 2. Scholars see a "dark side" in God because of Saul's rejection.
- 3. In the books of Samuel, lack of knowledge of the ways of God and the plans of God is never an excuse for misbehavior. In fact, it is an indicator of the distance of a character from the will of God.
- 4. Often a lack of knowledge in the books of Samuel is a refusal to know.
- B. A reading of Saul's rejection in the light of his rise

Was there a confirmation? Saul's kingdom is not established by God.

Was Saul an unbeliever? Defend your answer from the text.

- 1. Specific offenses
 - a. Sacrificing in Samuel's absence
 - b. Sparing Agag
 - c. 1 Sam 28 - Witch of Endor
- 2. General offense
 - a. Ch. 13 You have not kept the charge
 - b. Ch. 15 To obey is better than sacrifice
 - c. Disobedience to God
- 3. Fundamental problem
 - a. Unbeliever
- 4. 1 Sam 8:9 "give them a king"
- 5. 1 Sam 16:1 "I have found for me a king"
- 6. "A man after God's own heart" = "a man after God's choice"

What about 10:9 "changed Saul's heart?" 10:6 "Spirit in power?" 10:6 "changed into a different person?" This was necessary because he would not naturally join in as an unbeliever. Was this change permanent or temporary? The text shows temporary external action of God.

Why was Saul chosen in the first place? Hosea 13:10, 11. The people demanded a king.

Did Saul have a chance?