

1 Samuel Lesson 18 Saul's Disobedience Part 1

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Israel and the Philistines: At this point in time, the Philistines have 3 garrisons inside of Israel. One of them is at Geba or Jeba. It was in the neighborhood of Gibeah and opposite Michmash. The Philistines had overwhelming military superiority to the Israelites. They had a huge amount of chariots and horsemen. The Israelites had none. The Israelites did not acquire chariots until the time of Solomon. In addition the Philistines had outlawed blacksmiths in Israel so no iron weapons could be forged.

Standing army: Saul chooses Israel's first standing army. In the ancient Near East standing armies were often made up of professionally trained soldiers. Saul had previously selected a citizen militia to fight the Ammonites in Jabel Gilead. Now Saul is selecting men who presumably will be trained to fight Israel's battles.

Trumpet: In this case the trumpet was a ram's horn used to signal and summon the military.

Key Words:

foolishly: Strong's H5528 "sakai" to act like a fool usually in a morally or spiritual sense.

fool: Strong's H191 "ewil" foolish ; one who despises wisdom and discipline: (Proverbs 1:7) one who does what is right in his own eyes and does not listen to advice; (Proverbs 12 :15) one who is useless to instruct (Proverbs 16:22),

Saul began well, relying on the Lord in His first battle against the Ammonites. However, his true heart for the Lord will now reveal itself in both his actions and his speech. In this chapter we will see many of Saul's character flaw's begin to manifest themselves as he fights the Philistines.

Read 1 Samuel 13:1-9

1. In 1 Samuel 9:16 God had said that the new king was to "save His people from the hand of the Philistines" In chapter 13 Saul will begin to carry out that assignment. According to 1 Samuel 13:2 what was the first step Saul took in regards to battling the Philistines?

2. In 1 Samuel 13:3 who engaged in the first attack on the Philistines? What was Saul's response to this in 13:4? What character flaw did this reveal in Saul?

Application: Read through Philippians 2: 1-11. How can we as Christians avoid making the same mistake as Saul? What could be some of the consequences of acting like Saul, especially as Christian leaders??

3. The Philistines, having had their garrison utterly destroyed by Jonathan were now now ready for a fight. According to 1 Samuel 13:5 what was their army like? How did this compare to Israel's army?

4. What was the response of Saul's men in 13:6? How does this compare with the response of Saul's fighting men in Chapter 11, especially 11:7-11. Compare Saul's difference as a leader in Chapter 11 and 13.

5. Saul had been told to wait 7 days for Samuel to come and offer a sacrifice before he went to battle . What pressures according to 13:8 caused him to disobey that command? As Christians we are constantly faced with pressures or problems that cause us to react in the flesh rather than trust and obey God. What are some ways we can counteract this tendency?

Application: In this life we constantly face an enemy too strong for us, which may cause us to be afraid. What can we learn about that struggle from Ephesians 6:12-13. According to Colossians 2:15 who should we be looking to to win our battles? Why? What is the best way to deal with the fear that often accompanies these battles?

