

1 Samuel 13

Saul's Failure

1. 13:1 - A Textual Problem

- This verse causes a real problem for modern translators (who often copy each other)
- 13:1 - New Scofield, RSV/ESV left a hole in the text "... years old" "reigned ... and two years" with footnotes that say the numbers are lacking (but they are not)
- NASB77 reads "40 years old" and he "reigned 32 years" despite Acts 13:21
- LSB = he was 30 yrs old, reigned 42 years w/3 notes, 1st says "Hebrew is difficult"
- Once again, the KJB preserves the true text. You can trust every word in it.
- 1 - Saul reigned one year (ch. 11-12), and when he reigned 2 years (ch. 13)

2. 13:1-7 - The Philistine Threat

- 2-3 - Jonathan smote Philistines with fewer men (1000) than Saul (2000)
- 3-4 - "*Let the Hebrews[?] hear.*" - Saul[?] started a rebellion; meet Saul at Gilgal
- 5 - Philistines took over Michmash with 30,000 chariots, 6000 horsemen, + people.
- 6-7 - Distressed near Gilgal (water vs. huge army), they hid, some fled, or trembled.
- Whom should they fear? The LORD's wrath - Isa 2:10-19, Rev 6:15-16

3. 13:8-12 - Saul's Failure

- 8 - Time in distress manifests what's in the heart: impatience, doubt, pride, fear.
- 9-10 - Saul is religious, but lacks faith (presumes to do the prophet's work)
- "Rest in the LORD...fret not" - Ps 37:7, sacrifices as abomination - Prov 15:8
- 11 - Saul's defense: his army was small, Samuel took too long, large terrible army
- "*I have not made supplication*" - Where is his prayer, humility, patience? Isa 1:19-20
- 12 - "*I forced myself*" to do wrong using religion to get protection from God, not trust
- "No atheists in foxholes" and "let's make a deal" religion - both from fear.

4. 13:13-14 - His Kingdom Given to Another

- 13 - "*Thou hast done foolishly*" - His heart not right. Religion can manifest the heart.
- It was not a tool to manipulate God, but to convict the heart (sin/guilt) Lev 10:1
- "*thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD*" -for disobedience, insubordination
- "*now would the LORD have established*" - At this time of great distress - Ps 50:12-15
- "*thy kingdom...forever*" - With his son as a king after God's own heart.
- 14 - "*thy kingdom shall not continue*" - Due to his disobedient religion without faith.
 - "*I desired ... the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings*" - Hos 6:6
 - "*ye pay tithe... and have omitted ... judgment/mercy/faith*" - Matt 23:23, Mic 6:6-8
 - "*kingdom...shall be taken from you*" Saul now pictures faithless Israel - Mt 21:43
- "*sought a man after his own heart*" - confirmed to be David then Jesus - Acts 13:22-23
- God's own heart = willing and obedient to his purpose, promise, to save. Ps 89:26
 - The sacrifices of the heart are to be broken and contrite - Ps 51:17, 138:6-7
- The first religious kingdom failed (OT), the second will begin in the heart (NT)
 - The NT corrects their hearts - Hebrews 3:8, 10, 12, 4:12, 8:10, 10:22, 13:9

5. 13:15-23 - No Swords or Spears

- a. 15-16 - That day Saul's kingdom did not conquer the Philistines with 600 men.
- b. 17-18 - Spoilers take the spoil (rewards of victory) in Ophrah (Gideon who won with 300 men); Beth-horn (an empty house); Zeboim (destroyed with Sodom)
- c. 19-21 - The Philistines made it illegal to make/hold weapons to prevent uprising.
- d. 22 - "*neither sword nor spear found*" - Saul & Jonathan had weapons, but not the men
- e. David will remind Saul/Israel of God's deliverance - 1 Sam 17:45-47, Jdg 3:16,31,5:8