

Saul Becomes King

1 Samuel 8:1—10:27



bible verse

Committing to memory

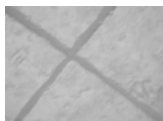
Proverbs 12:5

The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.

Ms

main street

December 5, 2010



story lesson

Bible story

This story is a pivotal point in the progression of Israel as a nation. They move from a theocracy (rule under God) to a monarchy (rule under men). Basically, the people reject God as their ruler and desire men to rule over them. This was foreshadowed in Deuteronomy 17. And yet, who could blame the people?

History has an interesting way of repeating itself. Samuel, by this time had grown old. He had led the nation of Israel well under the theocracy, rallying the people to subdue the Philistines during his leadership as a judge. And so he appointed his sons as judges for Israel—Joel and Abijah (1 Samuel 8:1-2). “But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice” (1 Samuel 8:3).



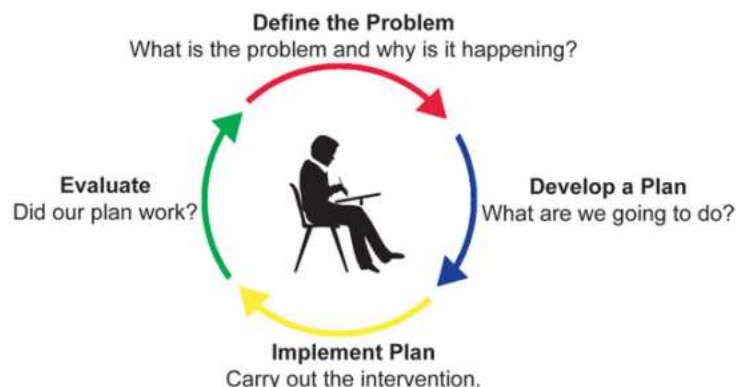
Sound familiar? Kind of like Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas!



Well this time the people wanted to do something about it. They did not want a recurrence of Eli and his two wicked sons’ exploits. So the people of Israel gathered together and beckoned Samuel to appoint them a king.

Sounds simple enough, right? Not quite.

They said to Samuel, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways [sounds good so far...good confrontation]; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have " (1 Samuel 8:5).



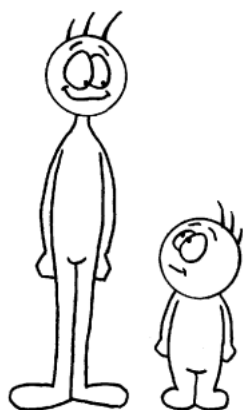
Herein lies the fundamental problem in the land of Canaan:

You see, the Israelites were supposed to conquer the land of Canaan as their Promised Land and they were to rule it as a holy nation, a kingdom of priests, and as a light to all the other nations. They weren't supposed to "be like the other nations," they were to be different so as to cause the world to know that the One,

True God of Heaven and Earth was found in the God Israel worshipped as a unique nation among all the others. So their desire to be like the other nations was an abnegation of their charter as a nation to be an example for the world. The special people of God rejected His design for their own. Samuel went before the Lord. The Lord told Samuel,

"Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what a king who will reign over them will do" (1 Samuel 8:7-9).

So, Samuel warned them that a king would take their sons for an army, workers for the fields, people to make weapons, take the best fields for the kingdom, a tenth of your grain as a tax, your best servants and cattle, and you yourselves will become his slaves. But the people still cried out: "No! We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles" (1 Samuel 8:19-20). The Lord told Samuel to do as they wished and everyone went home.



Meanwhile, a man named Saul ("an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites—a head taller than any of the others" (1 Samuel 9:2) was out looking for his donkeys one day with a servant of his. As they were looking for the donkeys they inquired of a man of God as to their location. The man of God was Samuel. The day before, God had told Samuel that a man named Saul would be coming to see him and he was to anoint him leader over the people of Israel. After Saul and his servant dined with Samuel, the man of God sent everyone else on ahead and he took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head anointing him king over Israel.

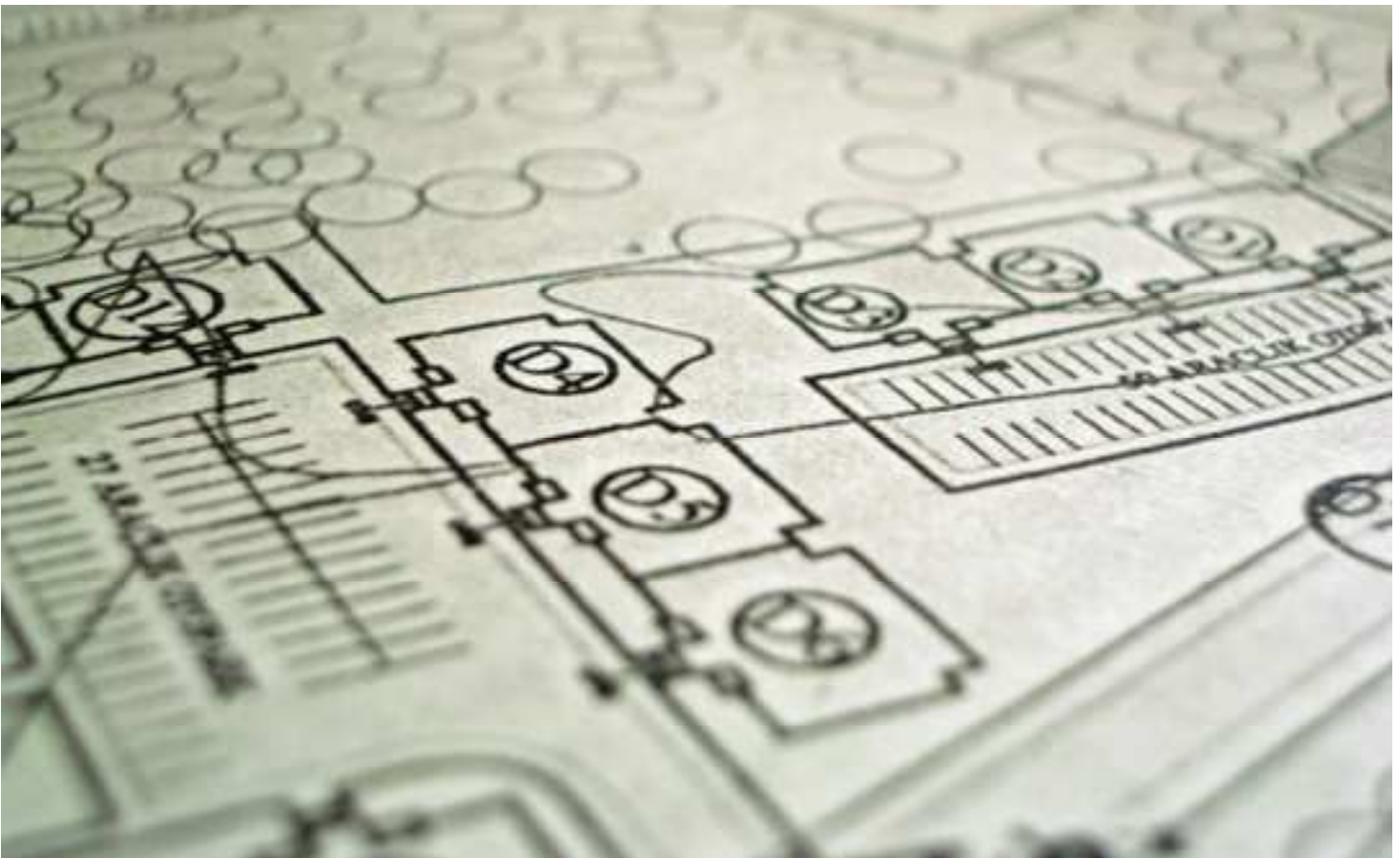


"As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart and all the signs that Samuel had told Saul were fulfilled that day" (1 Samuel 10:9). When Samuel summoned the people together to announce who their king was, Saul was found to be hiding amongst the baggage. Samuel said, "Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people" (1 Samuel 10:24). Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!" (1 Samuel 10:24). Samuel explained the regulations of

kingship then dismissed the people. Some people sneered at who their king was and did not bring him any gifts. "But Saul kept silent" (1 Samuel 10:27). As a king, Saul goes right to work. He rallies the troops and rescues the city of Jabesh and is confirmed as king.

Samuel gives a farewell speech where he chastises the people for their rejection of God as their king and chose a man to rule over them. And yet, even despite Israel's disobedience, God decides to work with Saul even though it was a bad choice. The deal was that if the nation chooses obedience and to fear the Lord, then good. All will go well with them. However, if the people of God choose disobedience, then the Lord will be against them as he was against their forefathers.

You know... It wasn't that God did not want them to have a king, but only in his timing. They got the wrong king at the wrong time—Saul. They should have waited for the right king at the right time—David.





life application

Making it real

Rejecting God

Israel rejects God as their leader. You see, God wanted to be their king...all along God wants to be their leader. God wanted direct relationship with them as his people. Instead, his people rejected him. They wanted a human representative that they could see. How do we reject God?

Be Like Everybody Else

We don't have to be like everybody else, do we? No. That is often a lie that we buy into. God wants us to be different than the world. God wants us to be the model humanity for the world. He wants us to show the world what He is like.

Can we do that while we are busy trying to be a rock star or famous or like the popular person? Maybe in God's kingdom or economy we are famous—famous by doing the things that God wants instead of what the world wants (or thinks is "famous").



questions

remembering

- 1. Why did the people of Israel want a king?** Because they did not want Samuel's sons to judge them, they wanted a king like the other nations
- 2. What did Samuel do when the people told him they wanted a king?** He prayed to the Lord
- 3. How did Samuel know who the king should be?** The Lord told Samuel that Saul would be coming to see him
- 4. How did Samuel make Saul king?** He anointed him with oil; poured oil on his head
- 5. What was the first thing Saul did after Samuel anointed him?** He went and met some prophets, and spoke prophecies after the Spirit of the Lord came upon him
- 6. What did Samuel say to the people when he called them together?** He told them everything God had done for them, and how they had rejected God, and that Saul was the king God had given them



coloring sheet

On the next page



Saul Becomes King