

The Life of King Saul
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Introduction: The life of King Saul is a tragedy we can learn from.

- A. We have both good and bad examples to teach us! **(1 Cor 10:11-12)**
 - 1. We are going to see the destruction of a good man.
 - 2. We need to know that this can happen. God wants to clearly warn us of this possible path. **(Heb 3:12)**
- B. Our God knows our limits and will protect us. What happens when we in pride start looking for the praise of men?

I. God chose the best man to be king

- A. Saul was going to lead a carnal people that did not trust God. **(1 Sam 8:5-8)**
 - 1. This was going to be a place of great tests for Saul.
 - 2. This could be a great opportunity for growth. **(James 1:2-3)**
- B. God chose Saul because he was the best man to be king. **(1 Sam 9:16-17)**
 - 1. Saul was a faithful servant to his father. No task was “below him” and he was mindful of what was best for his father. **(1 Sam 9:3-5)**
 - 2. He sought godly council. **(1 Sam 9:6-8)**
 - 3. He was humble and not seeking to be the king. **(1 Sam 10:21-23)**
 - 4. We will also see that he instilled a powerful faith in his son Jonathan!

II. The Fall of Saul

- A. Israel needed a strong king. God would use tests to help build his faith.
 - 1. When you study Genesis you will see that God *always* does this!
 - 2. Saul would have the help of God, His servant Samuel and other spiritual men. Saul had to remain humble and stay focused only on God’s council.
 - 3. Remember the exhortation given to Joshua. **(Joshua 1:7)**
- B. Saul was going to have to make a choice between being molded by the expectations of the people or the expectations of God. **(Gal 1:10)**
 - 1. He would be like a new coach of a major football team. The worldly standards of other kings would be in the minds of the people.
 - 2. It is not easy to lead a carnal people. There will be conflicts!
- C. God gives Saul a major test at Gilgal.
 - 1. The Philistines appeared to have an unbeatable army. **(1 Sam 13:5)**
 - 2. Saul is put in a holding pattern that is causing the people to fear and abandon hope. **(1 Sam 13:6-8)**
 - 3. This is a classic test of faith. God’s instructions are clear, but human wisdom says that circumstances would change what Saul should do.
 - 4. Saul gave into the pressure and did what worldly people would have done! What did God think? **(1 Sam 13:9-10)**
 - 5. Is Saul reasoning well? **(1 Sam 13:11-12)**
 - 6. He needed to remember what real obedience is about. **(1 Sam 13:13-14)**

7. What would you have done? Do you agree with God in this matter?

III. Saul develops a hardened heart

- A. Even though Saul disobeyed and was rebuked, His army won the battle and he was highly praised.
 - 1. When your peers are worldly people you will be encouraged in pride.
 - 2. What do your relationships say about you?
- B. Saul fails another test with the Amalekites. **(1 Sam 15:3, 9)**
 - 1. Saul now is set on pleasing men. Worldly men would say that Saul was obedient to God. What percentage of God's will did he obey?
 - 2. His mind is so distorted that he even tries to convince Samuel that he obeyed. He needed to shut his mouth and hear God. **(1 Sam 15:13-16)**
 - 3. He lost a love for God and the ability to think. **(1 Sam 15:10-11)**
- C. Saul never again finds true repentance. **(1 Sam 15:22-23)**
 - 1. We must never consider anything God says as "small."
 - 2. Did Saul repent? **(1 Sam 15:24-25)**
 - 3. There is a difference in saying the right words before men and repentance.
 - 4. His true motives come out later. **(1 Sam 15:30)**
 - 5. Samuel never sees Saul again. Saul reigns for 40 years!
 - 6. We must see pride as God sees it! **(Prov 21:4; 6:16-19; 8:13; 16:5)**

IV. Saul's descent into destruction

- A. None of us stand still spiritually. What direction are you moving?
 - 1. Proud people are unstable, insecure people.
 - 2. Saul quickly becomes an enemy of David. **(1 Sam 18:7-9)**
 - 3. Envy is irrational and tormenting to the one possessing it. Consider the terrible act of the Jewish rulers. **(Mk 15:10)**
- B. When you cut loose from God He also will cut you loose. **(Rom 1:24, 26, 28)**
 - 1. It is painful to watch Saul turn against everything good and the people who really loved him. **(1 Sam 20:32-33)**
 - 2. He is spared by David and says the right words again. **(1 Sam 24:10-11, 17-19)**
 - 3. A hardened heart can become permanent. David knew what God knew and hid from Saul from then on.
- C. Saul faced death with no consciousness of God at all. **(1 Sam 31:4-5)**
 - 1. This is a startling end to one who started out as a tender, righteous man.
 - 2. Our God will help us and deliver us if we will stay humble and repent!

Conclusion: Who are we really? **(1 Tim 1:12-16)**