

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Did Samuel's prophecy about Saul and his sons' deaths come true?
2. Saul's armor-bearer faced a moral dilemma—should he carry out a sinful order from a man he was supposed to obey?
3. Is there a difference in following an order with which you don't agree and following one you know is wrong?
4. How did Saul face death in the same way he faced life?
5. What can we learn as believers about Saul's backsliding?

SUMMARY:

After Saul had visited the witch and talked with Samuel, he now found himself in battle with the Philistines. After Saul's sons were killed, Saul was wounded, so he fell on his own sword. God had spoken this judgment to Saul through Samuel. Saul's life had the saddest possible ending. Saul's connections with God had been severed by sin. Unless one seeks forgiveness, disobedience to God must be punished, and there is always deep sorrow. Disobedience brings certain judgment both here and in eternity.

NOTES

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #13

June 25, 2023

Second Quarter

SAUL SLAIN

LESSON TEXT: *1 Samuel 31:1-13*

LESSON SETTING: King Saul's men are being defeated by the Philistines.

TIME: About 1056 B.C.

- I. A HARVEST OF REBELLION.** 1 Samuel 31:1-6
 - A. Foretold. 1 Samuel 15:23
 - B. Wages of Sin. Romans 6:23
 - C. Disobedience. Deuteronomy 11:26-28; Hebrews 2:2-3
- II. A HARVEST OF WARFARE.** 1 Samuel 31:7-10
 - A. Death of the Wicked. Psalm 37:36; Jeremiah 16:4; Luke 12:20
 - B. Death of the Righteous.
 1. Desired. Numbers 23:10
 2. Precious. Psalm 116:15
 3. Gain. Philippians 1:21
- III. A HARVEST OF KINDNESS.** 1 Samuel 31:11-13
 - A. Help Remembered. 1 Samuel 11:9-11
 - B. Fasting. Joel 2:12; Matthew 6:17-18

GOLDEN TEXT: SAUL DIED FOR HIS TRANSGRESSIONS WHICH HE COMMITTED AGAINST THE LORD.

1 Chronicles 10:13

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 1:1-6

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Leviticus 8:1-36;
Numbers 11:16-25;
1 John 2:20-29

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Life of David

TOPIC: DAVID ANOINTED KING

INTRODUCTION:

God's ways, as He states in His Word, are certainly higher than the ways of man. In this lesson we can again see the truth of these words. When God told Samuel to anoint a new king to replace King Saul, it did not seem the right time to do so. Was not Saul still king even though he had exalted himself and failed to give God His rightful place? When Samuel saw the eldest son of Jesse, he thought this was surely the one God intended. When this was not the case, he looked over the rest of the sons, but none of these seemed to be God's choice. At last, he asked whether there might not be more sons and found that the youngest was still with the sheep. Thus, the most unlikely son was brought in. Had not his father even forgotten him?

David was the chosen of God, however, he was the last thought-of son in what was perhaps the least thought-of family to fill a job which at that time was last thought-of as needing a replacement. God can see beyond the immediate thought of man. He had a plan that included this young shepherd. David had learned to know God and to walk with God. Nothing was too great or too small for him to accomplish with the help of God and God honors this sort of faith. We can learn much from the actions of this young man who God sought out to lead His chosen people.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God chooses men based on their inner qualities rather than on their outward appearance.

GOLDEN TEXT: *MAN LOOKETH ON THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART.*

1 Samuel 16:7

Saul, King of Israel at the time David was chosen, was the Israelites' first king. He was the son of a wealthy, powerful man. He looked and acted the part of a king. He was indeed such a man as we might choose today for a responsible position. God can look beneath the surface and He knew what sort of a king Saul would make. Israel had asked for a king that they might be like their neighbors and a king they got. Early, the true nature of his heart was revealed and they were made to suffer for the sins of their king.

David hardly looked the part of a king as Samuel anointed him in the house of his father. He was the youngest son of a somewhat unknown man of modest station. One who could be easily overlooked. Israel soon saw the wisdom of this choice.

This ought to be a real comfort to the believer, for God does not misread our motives or intents in all that we do. It should also serve to make us upright to know that He examines our inmost lives.

This knowledge should serve to bring fear to the hearts of those who have not given God His rightful place. He can see through all excuses, though they seem plausible to man.

Let us all ask God to search our hearts and direct our steps that we might walk in His presence.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 26 – July 2

Mon. *The Blessed Man. Psalm 1:1-6
Tue. *Samuel Obeys God. 1 Samuel 16:1-5
Wed. *David Anointed King. 1 Samuel 16:6-13
Thu. David Serves Saul. 1 Samuel 16:14-23
Fri. Knowing Men by Their Fruits. Matthew 7:15-23
Sat. Life's Foundations. Matthew 7:24-29
Sun. Importance of the Inner Life. Mark 7:14-23

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