

## Week 30

### 1 Samuel

**Key Verse: But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22 NIV**

### 1 Samuel 8-15

#### Summary of 1 Samuel 8

In the history of Israel we have seen sin and repentance as an unending cycle. They draw close to God for a while and receive His blessing, then in their comfort turn back to sin. At the end of 1 Samuel 7, we saw Israel in the process of repentance and restoration, but it was short lived.

Between chapters 7 and 8 of I Samuel, twenty-five years had passed. Samuel had grown old and appointed his sons as judges over Israel. This immediately sent up a red flag among the elders of Israel. Joel and Abijah did not walk in the ways of their father, they were dishonest, accepted bribes and perverted justice. The elders began to beg Samuel to give them a king, forgetting Israel's strength was unlike the other nations. They were God's covenant people and He was their King. He had been the one who had provided for them and gave them victory over their enemies time and time again.

We are no different today. As a nation and individuals we settle into our comfy lifestyle, we have our homes, families, food, clothes and even our wants. We have become self sufficient with no need for the God who has supplied all those things we enjoy, but as soon as tragedy strikes we fall on our knees seeking God's help and forgiveness.

In their comfort again Israel forgot God's protection, provision and promises. Israel's request for a king was not their greatest sin; it was their impatience to wait on God's perfect timing that got them in trouble. God had said kings would come from Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 17:6, 16 and 35:11. Jacob named Judah as the kingly tribe in Genesis 49:10. Moses prepared the nation for kings in Deuteronomy 17:14-20, before entering the Promised Land. The Omnipotent God knew this time would come before it ever came. God had a king in mind, but it was not time and His man of choice was not yet on the scene.

Samuel left that meeting with the elders of Israel convinced that he had been rejected by the people he had served so faithfully. God told Samuel not to be down hearted it was not him they were rejecting but God. He told Samuel, give them what they want, but tell them what it will eventually cost to have a king. (1 Samuel 8:11-18) *Note: They will not feel the full effect of their choice until King Solomon reigns over them. 1Kings 4:7-28*

In spite of all the Lord had done for Israel, from the call of Abraham to the promise of a land flowing with milk and honey, they chose to reject Almighty God and follow a frail man.

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**Day One: 1 Samuel 9-10**

Kish the father of Saul had lost some of his donkeys and sent him out looking for them. Saul had no clue that day when he left in search of donkeys he would return as a king.

1. Review Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and list the six qualities regarding the choice of a king.

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God gave them their request by appointing Saul to be king, and He used Saul to chasten the nation and prepare them for His choice David. Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin, which had almost been exterminated because of their rebellion against the Law. This should have been the first clue to Israel that their request was not God’s plan. God had made it clear the king He chose would come from the tribe of Judah, this king would be a forerunner to the King that would rule forever.

Saul was tall, good-looking, and strong. Although Saul did have some qualities that could be applauded, there were no indications of spiritual life. He had no clue as to who Samuel was, even when he came face to face with him. If he had attended any of the annual feasts he would have known Samuel.

Samuel anointed Saul privately and from that point Saul became the first king of Israel. Anointing with oil was the outward appearance of what was about to happen spiritually. God gave His Holy Spirit to chosen people to enable them to perform special tasks and He could also remove it under the old covenant. Believers today are under the new covenant and His Holy Spirit abides with us forever. (“And I will ask another Counselor to be with you forever- the Spirit of truth. John 14:16-17)

2. The people were impressed by the looks of Saul (1Samuel 9:2) and most of them followed his leadership. Have you ever made decisions about people on their looks? What were the results?

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3. On the day Samuel anointed Saul, Samuel told him what would take place when he left their meeting. What would be the results of Saul receiving the Holy Spirit? (1 Samuel 10:6-9)

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4. 1 Samuel 10:25, “Samuel explained to the people the regulations of the kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the Lord. Then Samuel dismissed the people, each to his own home.” What was Saul required to do as king and why was this important? (1 Deuteronomy 17:18) (1 Kings 2:3)

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Prayer Focus: The Holy Spirit desires to give us guidance and direction. Are there areas in your life you have not let go and allowed the Holy Spirit to lead?

**Day Two: 1 Samuel 11-12**

It most likely took Israel time to get accustomed to their new government. In times past, Samuel had prayed and God saved them from their enemies. Saul had another approach, he would put together a mighty army to defeat their enemies and that time came when the Ammonites threatened the people at Jabesh. (The Ammonites were descendants of Abraham’s nephew Lot, Genesis 19:30-38.) Saul led the charge but God gave them the victory over the Ammonites and Saul acknowledged this to Israel. Saul’s first victory in battle helped him gain approval before the people. As we continue through this portion of scripture, notice evidences of Saul’s increasing pride and decreasing character.

5. Nahash the Ammonite went up to Jabesh Gilead to take it under control. (1 Samuel 11:1-3) What did the men of Jabesh ask Nahash to consider? What was Nahash’s reply? What were the men of Jabesh’s counter offer?

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6. Where had Saul been when he heard the outcries of the people? What was his response to the news he had received? (1 Samuel 11:5-11)

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7. What happened in Gilgal after their victory? (1 Samuel 11:14-15)

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The people had spoken and rejected not only the kingship of Jehovah but the leadership of Samuel. The age of Judges had come to an end and it was time for Samuel to give his farewell speech. Like Jesus, Samuel stood before the people (1 Samuel 12:3) and asked, “Which of you convicts me of sin?” (John 8:46) The people standing in attendance that day new Samuel was a man of integrity.

8. What were some of the things Samuel reminded them of in his farewell speech? He also gave the Israelites a warning for disobedience and assurance if they were obedient. What was the warning? What were they assured if they were obedient? (1 Samuel 12:6-25)

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Pray Focus: Pray for the staff God has led to serve at Eagle Heights, as they give us warnings for disobedience and blessings for obedience.

**Day Three: Samuel 13**

The situation in chapter 13 appears to be quite different from that described in chapter 11. In chapter 11, Saul was Spirit-empowered when he became angry and forcefully called all Israel to fight the Ammonites. In chapter 13, Saul was not empowered by the Spirit and he was certainly less forceful when calling the nation to war. The Israelites were summoned, but far fewer than the earlier 330,000; those who did present themselves for battle were reluctant in doing so. This was the beginning of Israel’s liberation but not by Saul, it would not be finished until David becomes king.

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9. Jonathan the son of Saul led the attack on the Philistine outpost at Geba with one thousand men, declaring war. Who had the trumpet blown taking credit for this battle?

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10. The Philistine’s began gathering at Michmash for battle. How did the Philistine army compare in number to Saul’s army? How does Saul’s army react after hearing of their number?

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Samuel had made an appointment with Saul 7 days earlier (1 Samuel 13:8), but when the seventh day came and Samuel didn’t show at the moment Saul thought he should, he took things into his own hands. Saul’s view of God was small. If Saul had waited just a few more minutes everything would have been all right.

11. Who had God designated to offer sacrifices in Leviticus 1:3-9? What reason does Saul give to Samuel to explain his action?

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12. What should God’s people do when they realize they have disobeyed? What hope is there? (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13; Psalm 33:20)

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Prayer Focus: Are there areas in your life where you’re being disobedient? What steps are you making to correct this?

**Day Four: 1 Samuel 14**

(1 Samuel 14:6-14) Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, “Come let us go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.” Jonathan realized what his father didn’t; God was all he needed to win the battle. The heart of his father on the other hand was characterized by religious performance without genuine commitment to God.

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13. Where was Saul when Jonathan went over to the Philistine outpost? Who was with Saul? (1 Samuel 14:1-3)

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14. In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed twenty men. What caused the rest of the army to flee? (1 Samuel 14:15) What did 1 Samuel 14:6-15 tell you about God?

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15. The Lord rescued Israel that day and the battle moved on to Beth Aven. Saul’s army however, became weak because of restrictions placed on them. (1 Samuel 14:24)

What would be the punishment of anyone breaking that oath? Who was the first one to break the oath and who spoke out to defend him? 1 Samuel 14:24-46

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**Day 5: Disobedience Brings Judgment – 1 Samuel 15**

16. In 1 Samuel 15, the Lord gave Saul another opportunity to prove himself. What did the Lord ask him to do? How did he disobey God’s command?

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17. How did Samuel identify Saul’s sin? (Samuel 15:16-23)

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18. Saul kept falling back into the same cycle of sin. What had he not learned about repentance?

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19. What was the final result of Saul’s disobedience? (1 Samuel 15:22; 15:28)

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20. Who completed God’s instructions pertaining to the Amalekites? Why was it important to be totally obedient to God’s command?

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21. Are you “partially” doing what God has told you to do? What steps can be taken to correct this?

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Prayer Focus: Using Psalm 51, ask the Lord to reveal to you any areas of disobedience.