



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson 17 – Samuel, the Last Judge, and Saul, the First King, of Israel (First Samuel 8-17)

#### Samuel, the Last Judge

God sent the judges to deliver His people from their enemies. The judge's work was never permanent. The greatest judge was Samuel, the last judge. Through Samuel God gave His people victory over the Philistines by a true inward reformation. We can rank Samuel right next to Moses as a faithful and unwavering man of God. It was Samuel who founded the schools of the prophets who became teachers of God's Word among the people. It was Samuel whom God used to introduce the concept of kingship to the Israelites.

#### The Kingdom in Israel

God had already promised Abraham that kings would come from him. Before his death, Jacob said to his son Judah: **"The scepter shall not depart from Judah"** (Genesis 49:10). The laws of Moses included regulations for a future king in Israel. The heathen prophet Balaam, who was hired to curse Israel, was moved by God to say: **"A Scepter shall rise out of Israel"** (Numbers 24:17).

Therefore, when the Israelites asked Samuel to give them a king it was no sin in itself. But God and Samuel were displeased with their request because the Israelites believed their defeats were due to their not having a king like the other nations, whereas the real reason for their defeats was their unfaithfulness to the LORD God, their true King.

In spite of their sin God gave them a king, a king after their own heart: handsome Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. But Samuel warned them that this kingdom would not prosper unless both the king and the people would remain faithful to the LORD. After Saul proved to be unfaithful, God gave them a king after His own heart: Jesse's son, David, from the tribe of Judah. Later God promised David that the kingdom would never be taken from his family, as God had taken it away from Saul. God has kept that promise. The Son of David, our Lord **JESUS** Christ, rules today and will rule forever.

#### Saul, the First King

Saul was a good king at first, because he humbly ruled under God. But after his first success he became proud, and he put his own wishes above God and His Word. When he refused to wait for Samuel at Gilgal, but put himself into the role of priest, Samuel told him that God would not make the kingdom permanent in Saul's family. Later, when Saul refused to carry out God's command fully in the war against the Amalekites, Samuel told him that God had rejected his kingship altogether.

#### David, the Second King

Shortly after God rejected Saul, Samuel anointed young David, who Ruth's great grandson, as the second king of Israel. God began training him for kingship by having him serve in Saul's court as a musician and as Saul's armor-bearer. David's victory over the giant Goliath, whom Saul was afraid to face, proved that David was a man of faith in God's promises and thus inwardly qualified to be king of Israel.

Read First Samuel chapters 8-17 with the notes below. If you have any questions, ask them.

### 1 Samuel 8 – The Israelites Ask Samuel to Give Them a King

The elders ask Samuel to give them a king like the other nations (vv. 1-5).

God tells Samuel that they can have a king (vv. 6-9).

Samuel tells the people God's Word and warns them about the dangers of a king (vv. 10-22).

### 1 Samuel 9 – God Chooses Saul as the First King of Israel

Saul and his servant ask Samuel about Saul's father's lost donkeys (vv. 1-14).

God tells Samuel that Saul is to be the king (vv. 15-17).

Samuel and Saul eat and talk together (vv. 18-27).

### 1 Samuel 10 – The Anointing and Election of Saul as King

Samuel anoints Saul to be king and gives him three signs (vv. 1-7):

1. Two men will report the finding of his father's donkeys.
2. Three men will give him two loaves of bread.
3. The Spirit of the LORD will come on him and make him prophesy.

Samuel warns Saul to wait for him at Gilgal (v. 8).

The three signs take place (vv. 9-16).

Saul is chosen as king publicly at Mizpah (vv. 17-27).

Saul in modesty hid himself among the equipment.

### 1 Samuel 11 – Saul's Kingship Is Confirmed by His Victory over the Ammonites

The men of Jabesh Gilead ask Israel to defend them from the Ammonites (vv. 1-5).

Saul gathers an army and defeats the Ammonites (vv. 6-13).

Saul is crowned as king of Israel at Gilgal (vv. 14-15).

### 1 Samuel 12 – Samuel's Speech at Gilgal

Samuel declares his honesty as their judge (vv. 1-5). His two sons were not honest.

Samuel warns the people against rebellion against their God (vv. 6-15).

God sends miraculous thunder and rain to show the people their sins (vv. 16-19).

Samuel promises God's continued presence with them but warns against rebellion (vv. 20-25).

**"The LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

**"Fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

**"If you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

### 1 Samuel 13 – The First Great Disobedience of Saul

The Philistines gather together against Israel (vv. 1-7).

Saul waits for Gilgal at Samuel, but not long enough (vv. 8-14). Remember 1 Samuel 10:8.

It was not right for Saul as king to do the work of a priest and sacrifice the offering to God.

**"You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God... Now your kingdom shall not continue"** (vv. \_\_\_\_\_)

The Philistines threaten Israel again (vv. 15-23).

### 1 Samuel 14 – Saul's Son Jonathan Leads Israel to Victory over the Philistines

Jonathan and the young man who bore his armor put fear into the Philistines (vv. 1-15).

The Israelites win a great victory over the Philistines (vv. 16-23).

Saul foolishly commands his people not to eat until evening (vv. 24-31).

The Israelites eat blood, Jonathan eats honey and is almost killed, all because of Saul's foolish command (vv. 32-46).

A summary of Saul's reign (vv. 47-52).

### 1 Samuel 15 – Saul's Second Great Disobedience and His Rejection by God

Saul disobeys God's command to utterly destroy the accursed Amalekites (vv. 1-9).

Samuel tells Saul about his rejection; Saul tries to justify himself (vv. 10-31).

**"To obey is better than sacrifice... Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king"** (vv. \_\_\_\_\_)

Samuel kills Agag, the king of the Amalekites (vv. 32-35).

### 1 Samuel 16 – Samuel Anoints David as King and God Begins David's Training

Samuel anoints David of Bethlehem, the youngest son of Jesse, as king (vv. 1-13).

**"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart"** (v. \_\_\_)

Saul asks David to play the harp for him (vv. 14-23).

### 1 Samuel 17 – David's Victory over Goliath (which Saul as king should have won)

The giant Goliath defies Israel, Saul, and God Himself (vv. 1-11).

David offers to fight Goliath and he does so with five smooth stones and a sling (vv. 12-40).

God gives David the victory for he fights in faith in God's promises (vv. 41-58).

**"I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, ...whom you have defied"** (v. \_\_\_)

**"The LORD will deliver you into my hand...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel"** (v. \_\_\_)

### Questions

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1. What was so important about the life and ministry of Samuel?
2. Why was it wrong for the Israelites to ask for a king to rule over them?
3. In what ways did Saul look and act like a king at first?
4. How do we know that God always intended His people to have a king?
5. What was the difference between King Saul and King David?
6. How does the account of Saul teach the lesson that we should obey God in all things?
7. How did God prepare David for being king of Israel?
8. What did David reveal about himself in his battle with Goliath?
9. Under what circumstances did Samuel first meet Saul?
10. Under what circumstances did Samuel first meet David?