

# Fortune and Failure

## Lesson Ten

1 Samuel 8-31; 2 Samuel 1

The period of rule by judges is quickly drawing to a close. Israel wants to have a king instead of being ruled by judges. Israel's neighbors all have kings, and Israel thinks she should have a king also. The Lord does not want to do this, but eventually He does let them have a king. The first king of Israel is Saul.

This lesson will deal with the establishment of the monarchy and with the life of Saul. It will also follow the career of David who will become the second king of Israel. The relationship between Saul and David is one that is full of emotion. This is an action-packed and exciting time in the history of the nation of Israel.

### SAUL, THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL

1 Samuel 8-15

**Read 1 Samuel chapter 8** to see how Israel acquires its first king.

Are Samuel's sons true servants of the Lord? no

Who have the people rejected as their leader? God

What does Samuel predict will happen if the people have a king other than the Lord?

They will be slaves to the king, a tenth of everything will go to the king

Will the people listen to Samuel? no

What reason do they give for wanting a king? neighboring countries have a king

Does the Lord allow them to have a king? yes

*Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish; and he had a son whose name was Saul, a choice young man. From his shoulders and upward he was taller than any of the people. And the donkeys of Kish were lost. He said to Saul, his son, "Take one of the servants with you and go seek the donkeys." He passed through Mount Ephraim but did not find them. And the servant said, "Behold now, there is in this city a man of God; all that he says come to pass. Now let us go there. Perhaps he can show us the way that we should go." When they came into the city, behold, Samuel came out to meet them. Now the Lord had told Samuel a day before Saul came, "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a*

man, and you shall anoint him to be captain over My people Israel." When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said to him, "Behold, this man shall reign over My people." Then Saul said to Samuel, "Tell me, I pray you, where the seer's house is." Samuel answered, "I am the seer. As for your donkeys that were lost, do not worry about them for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father's house?" Saul remained with him overnight. The next day they arose early and went out, both of them. Then Samuel took a vial of oil **1** and poured it upon his head and kissed him and said, "The Lord has anointed you to be captain over His inheritance." When Saul had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart.

Who is chosen to be the king? Saul

It is time for Israel to see who has been chosen to be their king. Not everyone is pleased with the selection. **Read about it in 1 Samuel 10:17-27. (Slide 2)**

Where do the people gather? Mizpah

What is Saul doing when he is chosen? Hiding in the luggage

What is the sign of the opposition felt by some of the people? They send no gifts

Then Nahash, the Ammonite, came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead and said, "On this condition will I make a covenant with you that I may thrust out all your right eyes." And the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days respite." Messengers came to Gibeah, to Saul, who came after the herd out of the field. When they told him the tidings of Jabesh, the Spirit of God came upon him, and he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel saying, "Whoever does not come forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen." The people came out with one consent and killed the Ammonites so that two of them were not left together. And the people said to Samuel, "Who is he that said, 'Shall Saul reign over us'? Bring the men that we may put them to death." And Saul said, "There shall not be a man put to death this day; for today the Lord has wrought salvation in Israel."

The gouging out of an eye was meant to cause humiliation and also to keep the men from being able to do well in military affairs. It is hard to shoot an arrow accurately with only one eye.

Will Saul let the people put the dissenters to death? no

Saul has other victories in battle. As long as he is obedient to the word of God, everything goes well. Eventually, however, Saul does not follow through on what the Lord has said to do. Read about what goes wrong in **1 Samuel 15:1-9**.

What does the Lord tell them to do to the Amalekites? Destroy everything

How many soldiers does Saul gather? 210,000

What does Saul tell the Kenites? Move so they will not get hurt

Why does he want them spared? They were kind to Israel

What do Saul and his men do that is wrong? Spare the king and the best of the sheep and cattle

*Then came the word of the Lord to Samuel saying, "It grieves Me that I have set up Saul to be king, for he has not performed My commandments." And Samuel came to Saul. **3** Saul said to him, "Blessed be you of the Lord; I have performed the commandment of the Lord." Samuel said, "What means then this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen I hear?" Saul said, "The people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord, your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." Then Samuel said, **4** "Why did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen is better than the fat of rams. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you from being king." As Samuel turned about to go away, Saul laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle and tore it. Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you." Then Samuel went to Ramah and came no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless, Samuel mourned for Saul.*

Notice that Saul refers to God as the God of Samuel rather than as his own personal Lord. Saul was not unaware of the broken relationship between himself and the Lord.

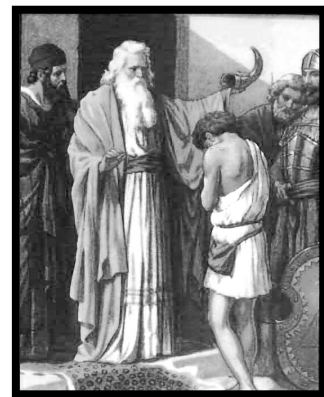
What is better than sacrifice? To obey

What is better than the fat of sacrifice? To listen

## DAVID ANOINTED KING

1 Samuel 16

*And the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing that I have rejected him? Fill your horn with oil and go to Jesse the Bethlehemite for I have provided a king from among his sons. And you shall anoint him whom I name to you." Samuel did that which the Lord spoke and came to Bethlehem and called Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice. When they had come, he looked on Eliab, Jesse's eldest son and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature, because I have refused him; for the Lord sees not as man sees. Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. Samuel said to*



Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these. Are these all your children?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and, behold, he keeps the sheep." **5** Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and fetch him." And he sent and brought him in. Now David was ruddy and of a beautiful countenance and good to look at. The Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." **6** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.

What is the difference between the way man looks at his fellow man and the way

God looks at man? Man looks at appearance; God looks at the heart

David had a special talent that soon would be put to use by Saul. **Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23** to find out about it. (Slide 7, 9)

What is Saul's problem? He has an evil spirit

What soothes Saul at these times? Harp music

For whom does Saul send to help him through these times? David

## DAVID AND GOLIATH

### 1 Samuel 17

The story of David and the giant Goliath is one of the most familiar of Bible stories. It can be seen that the Philistines are still the number one problem the Israelites must deal with. Remember that the deliverance of the Israelites from the Philistines began when Samson was a judge. It will end during the reign of David as king of Israel.

*Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle and stood on a mountain on the one side, and the Israelites stood on a mountain on the other side. There was a valley between them. There went out of the camp of the Philistines a giant named Goliath, whose was over nine feet tall. He had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail. He had greaves [armor to protect the shins from the foot to the knee] of brass upon his legs and a bronze javelin slung on his back. The staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam. One bearing a shield went before him. He stood and cried to the armies of Israel and said, "Why have you come out to battle? Choose a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he is able to kill me, then we will be your servants. I defy the armies of Israel this day!" When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.*

**Read 1 Samuel 17:13-37** to see how Israel responds to this challenge. (Slide 9)

How many of David's brothers are in the war? three

What does David do when he is not serving Saul? Tends his father's sheep

For how many days does the giant come out and take his stand? forty

What does Jesse tell David to do? Take food to his brothers

What three things will Saul do for the man who kills Goliath?

1.) he will be given money

2.) he will be given one of the king's daughters for a wife

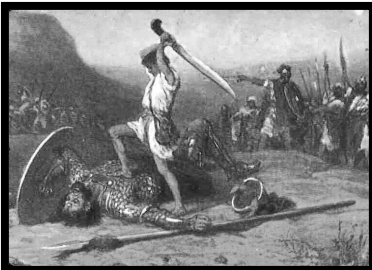
3.) his father will be exempt from paying taxes

Is Eliab glad to see his little brother? no

Who will fight Goliath? David

Who does David believe will deliver him in this battle? God

*And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you." And Saul armed David with his armor, and he put a helmet of brass upon his head. Also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armor and he tried to go. David said to Saul, **10** "I cannot go with these for I am not used to them." And David took them off. He took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones out of the brook and put them in a shepherd's bag. His sling was in his hand, **11** and he drew near the Philistine. When the Philistine saw David, he disdained him and said, "Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?" **12** He cursed David and said, "Come near to me, and I will give your flesh to the fowls of the air and to the beasts of the field." Then said David to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a shield; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand. I will kill you and take your head from you. I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day to the fowls of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." When the Philistine drew nigh, David hurried and ran toward the Philistine. He put his hand in his bag and took a stone from it and slung it*



*and it struck the Philistine in his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell upon his face to the earth. But there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore he ran and stood upon the Philistine and took the Philistine's sword and cut off his head with it. **13** When the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. The men of Israel arose and pursued them and killed them.*

Who is David's power? God

## DAVID AND JONATHAN

1 Samuel 17-20

One of Saul's sons strikes up a special friendship with David. Jonathan and David are very close. Jonathan recognizes that David is God's chosen servant. He knows that David will succeed his father as king, and he is not concerned about that. He is a loyal friend to David. The following episodes demonstrate just how loyal a friend Jonathan is.

*And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine the soul of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was knit with the soul of David. 15 Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would no longer let him go home to his father's house. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*

David's popularity among the people is rising quickly. Saul is aware of this. He is also aware that he has fallen out of favor with the Lord. Soon Saul becomes obsessed with jealousy. **Read 1 Samuel 18:6-19** to see how this jealousy gets started. **(Slide 15)**

What do the women say of Saul? *He has killed his thousands*

What do the women say of David? *He has killed his tens of thousands*

What does Saul do to David as David is playing the harp? *Hurls a spear at him*

Why is Saul afraid of David? *The Lord is with David*

Why won't David marry Merab? *He does not think he is good enough*

Another of Saul's daughters, Michal, falls in love with David and he does eventually marry her.

*And Saul spoke to Jonathan, his son, and to all his servants that they should kill David. And Jonathan spoke good of David to Saul, his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have benefited you; for he did put his life in his hand and killed the Philistine. You saw it and did rejoice. Why then will you sin against innocent blood?" Saul swore, "As the Lord lives, he shall not be slain." And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand. David was playing his harp. Saul sought to pin David even to the wall with the javelin, but David slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he threw the javelin into the wall. David fled and escaped that night.*

*David came and said before Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity and what is my sin before your father that he seeks my life? Truly, as the Lord lives, there is but a step between me and death." Jonathan said, "When I have sounded out my father to see if there be good toward you or evil, then I will tell you. In three days come to the place where you hid yourself, and I will shoot three arrows as though I am shooting at a mark. I will send a lad, saying, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to the lad, behold, the arrows are on this side of you, then come for there is peace no harm. But if I say, behold the arrows are*

beyond you, go your way for the Lord has sent you away. And as touching the matter which you and I have spoken of, behold, the Lord be between you and me forever." So David hid himself in the field.

What will Jonathan let David know? If it is safe to come back

**Read 1 Samuel 20:24-33** to see if David will be safe if he returns. (Slide 16)

Why does Saul think David is absent from the table? He is ceremonially unclean

Saul accuses Jonathan of siding with whom? David

What does Saul tell Jonathan about the chances of Jonathan becoming king? As long as David lives, Jonathan will not be king

Does this information bother Jonathan? no

Whom does Saul try to kill? Jonathan

Is it safe for David to return? no

*And in the morning, Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad went with him. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you? Make speed, hurry." 17 And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows and came to his master; but he did not know anything of the matter. Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad and said to him, "Go, carry them to the city." As soon as the lad was gone, David arose, and they kissed one another and wept one with another, but David most of all. Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn in the name of the Lord saying, "The Lord be between me and you and between my seed and your seed forever.'" And David arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.*

## PERSECUTION OF DAVID AND SAUL'S DEATH

1 Samuel 21-31

2 Samuel 1

*Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech, the priest. Being hungry, the priest gave him the showbread, 18 for there was no other bread there. And David said, "Is there not here a spear or sword?" The priest said, "The sword of Goliath, the Philistine, whom you killed is here; if you will take that, take it." David said, "There is none like that; give it to me." David arose and fled from Saul. About four hundred men gathered themselves to him; and he became a captain over them.*

Is Saul after David? yes

The priest above sided with David in that he provided him with food and a weapon. **Read 1 Samuel 22:6-18** to find out what happens when Saul hears of this. (Slide 19)

Of what does Saul accuse his officers? Conspiring against him

Who tells Saul what Ahimelech, the priest, has done? Doeg

Does Ahimelech think David is a traitor? no

What does Saul tell his guards to do? Kill the priest and his family

Will they do as Saul says? no

Who kills the priests? Doeg

How many priests are killed? Eighty-five

Through all of this time of being sought after by Saul, David does not forget that the king is the representative of God and as such deserves respect. He does not mount a counter attack against Saul, nor does he try to overthrow him. In fact, David has two opportunities to kill Saul. Read on to see what happens in one of these encounters.

*It was told Saul, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of En Gedi." Saul took three thousand chosen men and went to seek David. He came by the way where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. The men of David said, "Behold, this is the day in which the Lord will deliver your enemy into your hand." Then David arose and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth my hand against my master seeing that he is the anointed of the Lord." When Saul rose up out of the cave, David also went out and cried*



*after Saul saying, "My lord the king! **20** Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord had delivered you into my hand. Yea, see the corner of your robe in my hand. The Lord judge between me and you, but my hand shall not be upon you." Saul wept and said, "My son David, you are more righteous than I. The Lord reward you good for what you have done to me this day." Saul went home. At this time Samuel died, and all the Israelites lamented him and buried him at Ramah.*

Why won't David kill Saul? Saul is God's representative

It sounds as though Saul has relented a little, but that is not so. Saul again goes after David and once again David spares Saul's life. But there is other trouble in the kingdom that must be attended to. **Read 1 Samuel 28:4-19.** (Slide 21)



Of whom is Saul afraid? Philistines

Will the Lord answer Saul? no

To whom does Saul turn for an answer? Medium (fortune teller)

Why is the woman afraid after she learns she is dealing with Saul? Fortune telling has been outlawed

Whom has the Lord given the kingdom to? David

What will happen to Saul and his sons the next day? They will die

Saul is very wrong to have gone to the fortune-teller. God forbids his people to make use of such persons. Saul himself had outlawed mediums and spiritists. He is operating outside of faith in the Lord.

*Now the Philistines fought against Israel. The men of Israel fled from before the Philistines and fell down slain in Mount Gilboa. The Philistines killed Saul's three sons. The battle went against Saul, and the archers hit him. He was sore wounded. Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and thrust me through with it lest the Philistines come and thrust me through and abuse me." But his armor-bearer would not for he was afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell upon it. **22** When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword and died with him. It came to pass on the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen. They cut off his head and fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan. And when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul, they arose and took the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Bethshan and came to Jabesh and burned them there. They took their bones and buried them under a tree at Jabesh and fasted seven days. David lamented over Saul and Jonathan saying, "You daughters of Israel weep over Saul. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of battle! O Jonathan, you were slain in the high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan. Very pleasant have you been to me. Your love to me was wonderful."*

Does David rejoice at the death of Saul? no

## REVIEW

1. Why does Israel get a king? *They keep asking for one*
2. Does the Lord want them to have a king? *no*
3. Who is the first king? *Saul*
4. Why is Saul rejected by God as king? *He disobeys God*
5. How does the Lord judge a man? *By his heart*
6. What is the first thing David does for Saul? *Plays the harp*
7. Of which Philistine are the Israelites afraid? *Goliath*
8. Who kills Goliath? *David*
9. Who is David's special friend? *Jonathan*
10. Who warns David to flee? *Jonathan*
11. Who feeds David and gives him a weapon? *Ahimelech*
12. What does Saul do to this person? *Has him killed*
13. Where do David and Saul meet? *In a cave*
14. What does David do to Saul? *Cuts off a corner of the robe*
15. Why won't David kill Saul? *Saul is God's representative*
16. To whom does Saul go for answers? *A medium (fortune teller)*
17. What happens to Saul in the battle with the Philistines? *dies*