

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- At the beginning of chapter 15, the word of the Lord that came to Saul through the prophet Samuel was that he was to listen to the voice of the Lord, and strike and devote to destruction the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they came up out of Egypt.
- Saul strikes down the Amalekites and devoted the people to destruction. However, he spared Agag the king, the best sheep, oxen, fattened calves, and all that was good.
- It is evident that Saul was intending to use the animals for sacrifice. However, Samuel reminds Saul that the Lord requires obedience to his voice over sacrifice.

Torn Away

- Because of the way Saul has neglected the voice of the Lord in favor of the voice of the people, it should lead us to read Saul's confession of sin and promise of repentance in a similar vein to that of **Pharaoh (1 Sam. 15:24-25; Ex. 10:16-17; 9:27)**.
 - ▶ Fearing the people more than God, Saul **obeyed them** when all along he should have been obeying the voice of God through the prophet (**Prov. 29:25; Isa. 51:12-13**).
 - ▶ Saul's plea for forgiveness falls on deaf ears, and as Samuel turns to leave the scene, Saul tears the hem of Samuel's robe. A man's robe symbolize his **power** and **authority (1 Sam. 2:19; 18:4; 24:11)**.
 - ▶ The tearing of Samuel's robe implies an irreparable breach between Saul and **Samuel** as well as the more obvious tearing of the kingdom from Saul's personal rule and that of his descendants (**1 Sam. 15:27-29**).
 - ▶ Saul wants to **save face** before the elders and people of Israel by publicly worshiping the Lord and so demonstrating his allegiance to him. Samuel relents (**1 Sam. 15:30-31**).
 - ▶ Samuel is the one that **rectifies** the situation by executing Agag. Samuel reminds Agag of the blood he shed and hacks him to pieces (**1 Sam. 15:32-33**).
- The Lord's communion with Saul through the prophet Samuel was broken. He failed to **listen**, God now refuses to **speak (1 Sam. 15:34-35)**.

David

- Although Samuel mourned the tragedy that had befallen Saul, he went, in response to the leading of God to Bethlehem, where God was **providing** for himself a king (**1 Sam. 16:1-3**).
 - ▶ The root word as a verb meaning “**provide**” (**1 Sam. 16:1, 17**) or “**see, look at**” (**1 Sam. 16:6, 7, 18**) and as a noun meaning “**appearance**” (**1 Sam. 16:7, 12**) occurs nine times in this chapter. The contrast meaning “**not chosen**” occurs 3 times (**1 Sam. 16:8-10**). The theme of chapter 16 appears to be in contrast to the people’s choice of Saul, now Yahweh will choose his king.
- Yahweh had told Samuel that he had seen a king among Jesse’s sons (**1 Sam. 16:1**). Samuel sees **Eliab** and thinks he is the one whom Yahweh will choose (**1 Sam. 16:6**).
 - ▶ Yahweh must immediately instruct Samuel not to look on what he can see; what man sees does not matter, for man sees the outside, while Yahweh sees to the **heart** (**1 Sam. 16:7; 9:2**). The king must not be made in the **image of Saul**, but in the **image of God’s own heart**.
- When by process of elimination David finally appeared before Samuel, the old prophet knew that he was the divine choice, a fact confirmed by the visitation of the **Spirit of God** upon him (**1 Sam. 16:13**).
 - ▶ Yahweh both chooses David for kingship and **equips him** for that work. He appoints his servant to a task but at the same time gives him what he needs to fulfill that task. No sooner does the Spirit touch David than he is catapulted into endless trouble—the envy, anger, and plots of Saul.
 - ▶ David, who came to the throne of Judah in **1011** at the age of thirty (**2 Sam. 5:4**), was born in **1041**, or about ten years after Saul began to reign.
 - ◆ An age of **twelve** would not be unreasonable. This gives a date in the early 1020s for the narrative of Saul’s rejection and David’s anointing, a date well in keeping with the age of Samuel, who then would have been about ninety.
- People throughout the ancient Near East thought of kingship as an institution designed to enable the gods in heaven to achieve their **purposes on earth**. In the providence of God, it was only with the election of David, the “man after God’s own heart,” that the stage was set for human kingship in its pristine and finest form to come about.
 - ▶ David was adopted by God to **represent** God on the earth and to **establish** a human dynasty over which God’s very Son (who was also the son of David), Jesus Christ himself, would reign.

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1 Samuel 15:24–25	24 Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the Lord."
Exodus 10:16–17	16 Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. 17 Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the Lord your God only to remove this death from me."
Exodus 9:27	Then Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron and said to them, "This time I have sinned; the Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong.
Proverbs 29:25	The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.
Isaiah 51:12–13	12 "I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass, 13 and have forgotten the Lord, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day because of the wrath of the oppressor, when he sets himself to destroy? And where is the wrath of the oppressor?"
1 Samuel 2:19	And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
1 Samuel 18:4	And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.
1 Samuel 24:11	See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it.
1 Samuel 15:27–29	27 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. 28 And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. 29 And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret."
1 Samuel 15:30–31	30 Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the Lord your God." 31 So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul bowed before the Lord.
1 Samuel 15:32–33	32 Then Samuel said, "Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites." And Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." 33 And Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.
1 Samuel 15:34–35	34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeath of Saul. 35 And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

<p>1 Samuel 16:1-3</p>	<p>1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:1</p>	<p>The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:17</p>	<p>So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:6</p>	<p>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:7</p>	<p>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:18</p>	<p>One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:12</p>	<p>And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:8-10</p>	<p>8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 9:2</p>	<p>And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:13</p>	<p>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:4</p>	<p>David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.</p>