

June 13–19
1 Samuel 8–10; 13; 15–18
“The Battle is the Lord's”



Israel Desires a King

1 Sam 8:3-9

Why did the Israelites want a king?

Why does that show that the Israelites did not want God to “reign over them”?

Marion G. Romney

"In the days of Samuel... Israel clamored for a king. 'Make us a king,' they cried, 'to judge us like all the nations.' They thought it was more important to be like the people around them, the heathen nations, than it was to follow the counsel of the Lord...

"Samuel mourned over the obstinacy of his people, for he knew that if in defiance of the counsel of the Lord they persisted in their demand for a king, it would mean their downfall. But the Lord, always respectful of man's agency, whether he wants to do right or whether he wants to do wrong, said to Samuel:

"Hearken unto the voice of the people... for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.'

"As we know, Israel got their king. In a few generations their kingdom was divided... into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah, both of which were, in their turn, carried away into captivity. Not only did they lose their political freedom, but their very political existence as nations was terminated." ("Seek Not to Counsel the Lord", Ensign, August 1985)

Israel Desires a King

1Sam 8:10-20

Despite Samuels stronger warning and prophesy, what was their motivation for wanting a king?

Ezra Taft Benson

"The Lord told Samuel to warn the people of the consequences if they had a king. Samuel gave them the warning. But they still insisted on their king. So God gave them a king and let them suffer. They learned the hard way.

"Sometimes in our attempts to mimic the world, and contrary to the prophet's counsel, we run after the world's false educational, political, musical, and dress ideas. New worldly standards take over, a gradual breakdown occurs, and finally, after much suffering, a humble people are ready to be taught once again a higher law." (CR, April 1975)

Marion G. Romney

"The Lord here followed his uniform course. He refused to interfere with Israel's right of choice, even though their choice was to reject him. Israel, having been warned by both their God and his prophet Samuel, exercised their agency, contrary to the advice of both. They got their king, and they suffered the consequences. In due time their kingdom was divided, they were taken captive, and ultimately they became slaves." (CR, Oct. 1968)

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 9:15-16

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 9:1-6,10

What characteristics does Saul possess that would cause him to be chosen of the Lord?

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 9:17-21

What characteristics does Saul possess that would cause him to be chosen of the Lord?

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"When Samuel chose Saul to be king, Saul tried to talk him out of it. Saul was from one of the smallest tribes of the house of Israel. How could he be king? But God saw him as 'a choice young man.'" (CR, Oct. 2015)

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 10:6-7

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 10:9-11

What do you think Samuel meant when he told Saul that, “God gave him another heart”?

Alma 5:13-14

13 And behold, he preached the word unto your fathers, and a mighty change was also wrought in their hearts, and they humbled themselves and put their trust in the true and living God. And behold, they were faithful until the end; therefore they were saved.

14 And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts?

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 10:17-19

Of what does Samuel remind the people?

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 10:24-27

Spencer W. Kimball

"Now that the new leader was chosen, called, set apart, and sustained by his people with their votes expressed in their cry: 'God save the king', the superior young man was ready to serve, and was promised the blessings of the Lord so long as he was worthy; but not too many years had elapsed until, through unrighteousness, he had forfeited his blessings and kingdom." (CR, Oct. 1958)

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 11:11-15

What evidence is there that Saul was still a humble servant of the Lord?

Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam12:1,14,25

How is the fate of the king and the fate of the people tied together?

Saul Turns From Righteousness

1Sam13:8-14

How had Saul sinned against the Lord?

Does he seem penitent, or does he rationalize?

What is the price of his disobedience?

Robert L. Simpson

"We can also look to Saul, the promising young ruler of Israel who had every requirement of a great leader. Yet Saul disobeyed priesthood principles. He was given specific instructions by a prophet of God.... But Saul rationalized and compromised those instructions. He acted on his own volition. He did that which he reasoned should be done rather than that which the prophet Samuel had instructed him to do.

"On subsequent occasions Saul further violated priesthood principles but just as with Cain, these misdeeds brought only tragedy and sorrow." (CR, Oct. 1968)

Saul Turns From Righteousness

1Sam15:10-11

What had made Samuel so sad?

JST 1Sam 15:11

I have set up Saul to be a king, and he repenteth not that he hath sinned; for he is turned back from following me and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

Saul Turns From Righteousness

1Sam15:13-19

What does Samuel mean when he says, "when thou wast little in thine own sight"?

Neal A. Maxwell

"Saul, when chosen, was 'A choice young man,... and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he' (1 Sam 9:2). Later, he became encrusted with ego and puffed by power. Samuel then recalled a time when Saul 'wast little in [his] own sight.' In contrast, true submissiveness greatly enlarges the soul, but without hypocrisy and guile." (CR, April 1985)

Saul Turns From Righteousness

1Sam15:21-23

Milton R. Hunter

"Saul received this commandment, went in pursuit of the Amalekites but did not fully keep the commandment. He brought back the fattest and best of the sheep and cattle as spoils of war.

"God was very displeased with Saul's disobedience...

"I would that every Latter-day Saint would place deeply that statement in his heart and keep it there forever.

Furthermore, I would that every Church member from this time forward would repeat every few days: 'Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams'; and obedience is even better than the wealth of this world or than any position or honor that mortal man can bestow upon us. Best of all our attainments, therefore is to obey the voice of God in all things and at all times." (CR, April 1952)

David Is Anointed King

1Sam16:1,7

Marvin J. Ashton

"We also tend to evaluate others on the basis of physical, outward appearance: their 'good looks,' their social status, their family pedigrees, their degrees, or their economic situations.

"The Lord, however, has a different standard by which he measures a person. When it came time to choose a king to replace King Saul, the Lord gave this criteria to his prophet Samuel: '... for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.'

"When the Lord measures an individual, He does not take a tape measure around the person's head to determine his mental capacity, nor his chest to determine his manliness, but He measures the heart as an indicator of the person's capacity and potential to bless others." (CR, Oct. 1988)

David Is Anointed King

1Sam16:11-13

David Is Anointed King

1Sam 16:14,21-23

JST 1Sam 16:14

But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul,
and an evil spirit which was not of the Lord
troubled him.

David and Goliath

1Sam 17:41-47

Who did David recognize was fighting for him?

James E. Faust

"David knew that inspiration had brought him to save Israel. King Saul was so impressed with the faith and determination of this young boy that he appointed David to fight Goliath.

"Goliath made sport of David's youth and lack of armament. David responded that he came in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel and that the whole assembly would learn that the Lord saveth not by the sword and the spear, 'for the battle is the Lord's.' Then David threw a rock from his sling with such force and accuracy that the stone sank deep into the forehead of Goliath. Goliath fell to the earth a dying man, and the Philistines fled in fear." (CR, April 1980)

Next Week:

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Samuel 5–7; 11–12; 1 Kings 3; 8; 11

“Thy Kingdom Shall Be Established For Ever”

