



The Book Of Samuel 2

Bible Series

Chapter 3:1

- **The boy Samuel ministered to the LORD:**
- For the third time it is emphasized that Samuel **ministered to the LORD**
- (also in [1 Samuel 2:11](#) and [2:18](#)), just as Aaron and his sons did at their consecration as priests ([Exodus 29:1](#)) and
- just like Paul and Barnabas did before they were sent out as missionaries ([Acts 13:1-2](#)).



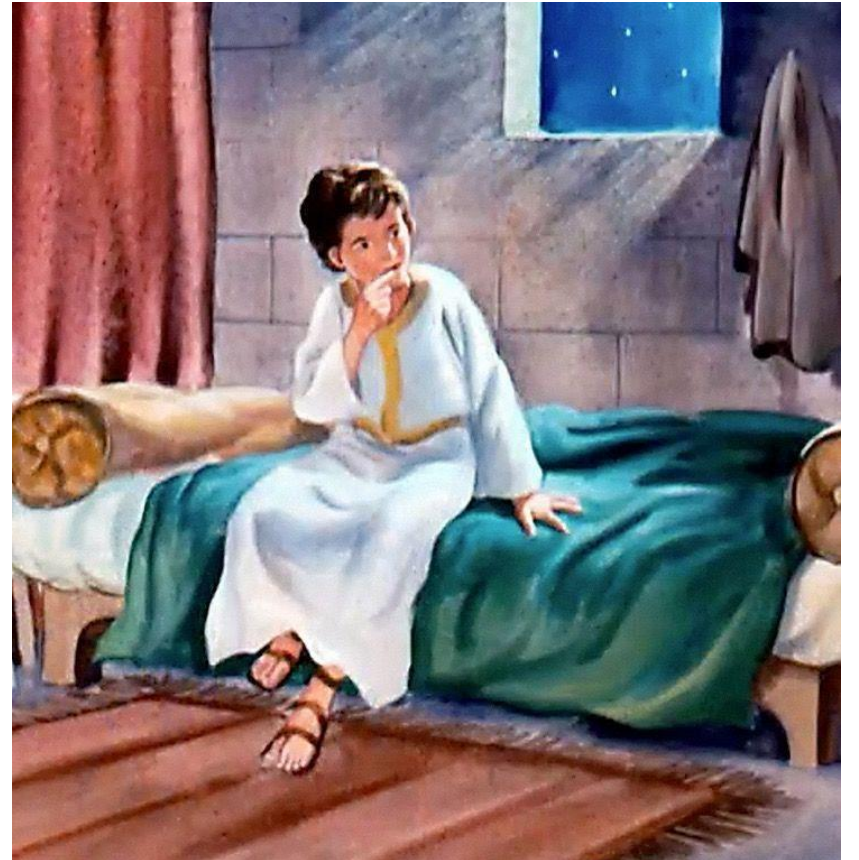
Chapter 3:1

- **The word of the LORD was rare in those days:**
- The only **word of the LORD** we read of in the first two chapters of 1 Samuel is the word of judgment brought by the man of God against Eli.
- God didn't speak often, and when He did, it was a word of judgment.
- i. **The word of the LORD rare in those days** because of the hardness of heart among the people of Israel and the corruption of the priesthood.
- God will speak, and guide, when His people seek Him, and when His ministers seek to serve Him diligently.



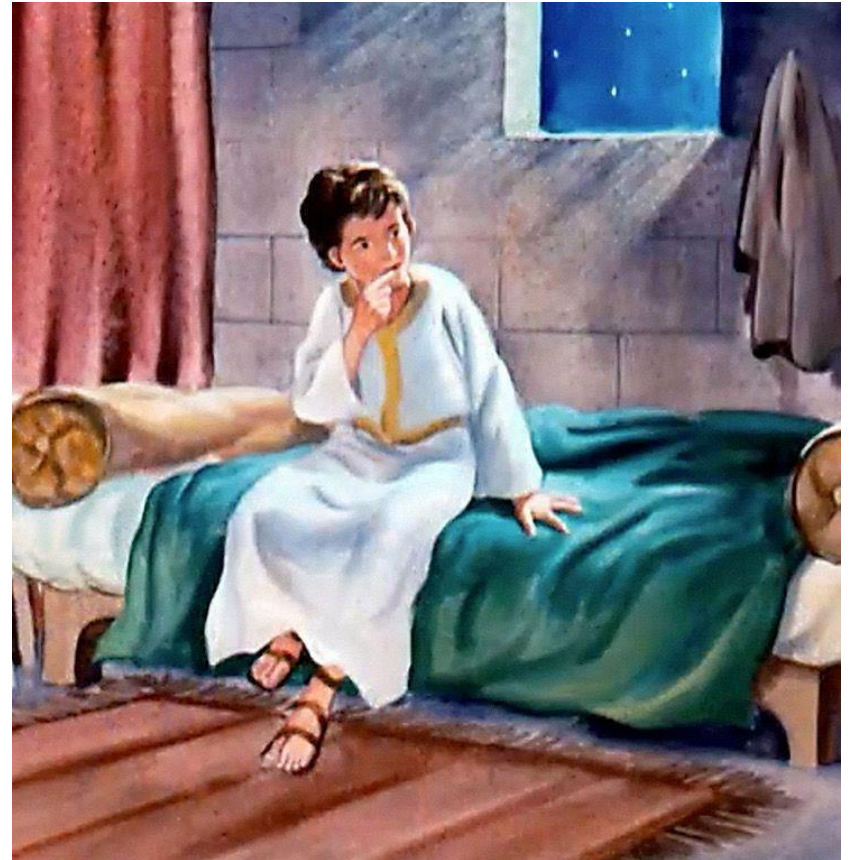
Chapter 3:4...

- **While Samuel was laying down to sleep, that the LORD called Samuel:**
- We don't know for certain how old Samuel was. The ancient Jewish historian Josephus said Samuel was 12 years old.
- However old he was, God spoke to Samuel.
- **d. And he answered, "Here I am!"**
- This leads us to believe God spoke to Samuel in an audible voice, instead of in an "inner voice," though this is not certain.
- But Samuel was so impressed by what he heard, he responded by saying, **"Here I am!"**



Here I Am....

- This is a beautiful way to respond to God's Word.
- It isn't that God does not know where we are, but it tells God and it reminds us we are simply before Him as servants, asking what He wants us to do.
- Samuel is among several others who also said, "**Here I am**" when the LORD spoke to them:
 - Abraham ([Genesis 22:1](#)),
 - Jacob ([Genesis 46:2](#)),
 - Moses ([Exodus 3:4](#)),
 - Isaiah ([Isaiah 6:8](#)),
 - Ananias ([Acts 9:10](#)).



The Voice of God...

- **He ran to Eli:** Samuel was an obedient boy. He was wrong in thinking Eli spoke to him, but he was right in what he did.
- Samuel came to Eli quickly because he knew Eli was blind and might need help.
- **And the LORD called yet again:** When speaking to us, God almost always confirms His word again and again.
- It is generally wrong to do something dramatic in response to a single “inner voice” from the LORD. If God speaks He will confirm, and often in a variety of ways.
- **Samuel did not yet know the LORD:** Samuel was a godly and obedient boy, serving God wonderfully. Yet, he had not yet given his heart to the LORD.
- Even children raised in a godly home must be converted by the Spirit of God



Speak Lord...

- **Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears:**
- Eli gave Samuel wise counsel. Eli told Samuel to: Make himself available for God to speak (**Go, lie down**).
- Not be presumptuous about God speaking (**if He calls you**).
- Respond to the word of God (**Speak, LORD**).
- Humble himself before God and His word (**Your servant hears**).
- e. **Speak, LORD:** We must hear from God. The preacher may speak,
- our parents may speak,
- our friends may speak,
- our teachers may speak,
- those on the radio or television may speak.
- That is all fine, but their voices mean nothing for eternity unless God speaks through them.



The Lord Came...

- . Then the LORD came and stood and called:
- This seems to have been audible and because it says the LORD **stood**, it may be that this was a unique *appearing* of the LORD,
- perhaps in the person of Jesus before Bethlehem.
- This was not a dream or a state of altered consciousness.



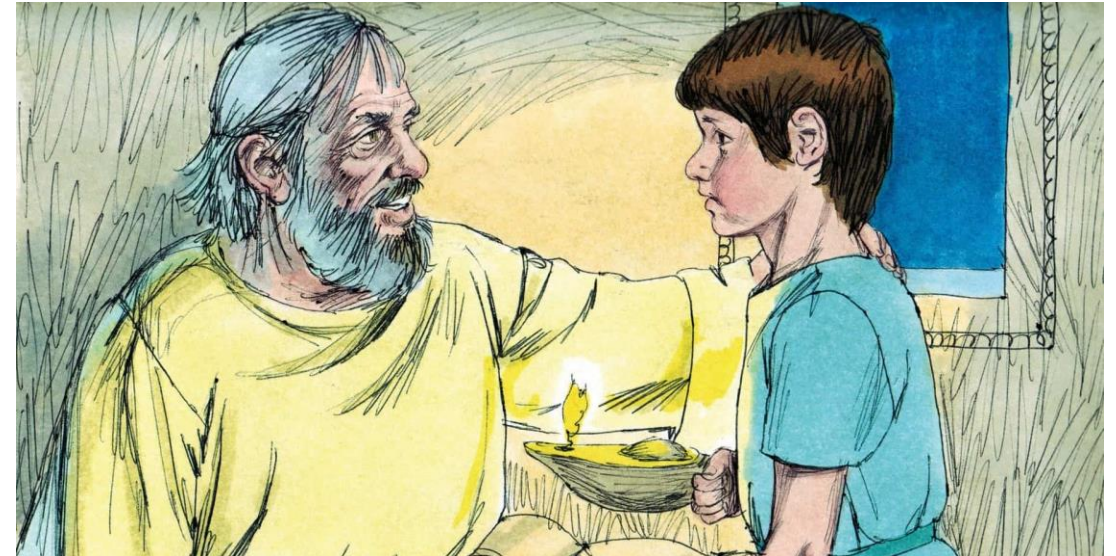
Tingling Ears...

- **Both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle:**
- God will give young Samuel spectacular news.
- In other places in the Old Testament, *tingling ears* are signs of an especially severe judgment
- ([2 Kings 21:12](#), [Jeremiah 19:3](#)).
- **For I have told him that I will judge his house:**
- Through the word of the *man of God* in [1 Samuel 2:27-36](#),
- Eli already heard of the judgment to come. This word to young Samuel was a word to *confirm* the previous message from God.



What Did God Say...?

- **Samuel lay down until morning:**
- Of course, he didn't *sleep* at all. We see young Samuel laying on his bed, ears tingling at the message from God, wondering how he could ever tell Eli such a powerful word of judgment (**Samuel was afraid to tell Eli**).
- **Opened the doors of the house of the LORD:**
- Presumably, this was one of Samuel's duties as a servant at the tabernacle.
- **Samuel, my son!** Eli was not a good boss or a good parent to Hophni and Phinehas. But Samuel came to him as a "second chance," and Eli did a better job of raising Samuel than he did with his sons by birth.
- **What is the thing that the LORD has said to you:**
- Eli had an idea of what the message of God to Samuel was. Kindly, he took the initiative and asked Samuel, knowing it was difficult for the young man to tell him.



Samuel Grew....

- **So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel *had been* established as a prophet of the LORD.**
- **The LORD was with him:**
- Nothing compares to this, to have and to know you have the LORD with you.
- The Christian can know God is with them: *If God is for us, who can be against us?* ([Romans 8:31](#))
- **Let none of his words fall to the ground:** This means all of Samuel's prophecies came to pass and were known to be true words from God.
- **Therefore, all Israel... knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.**



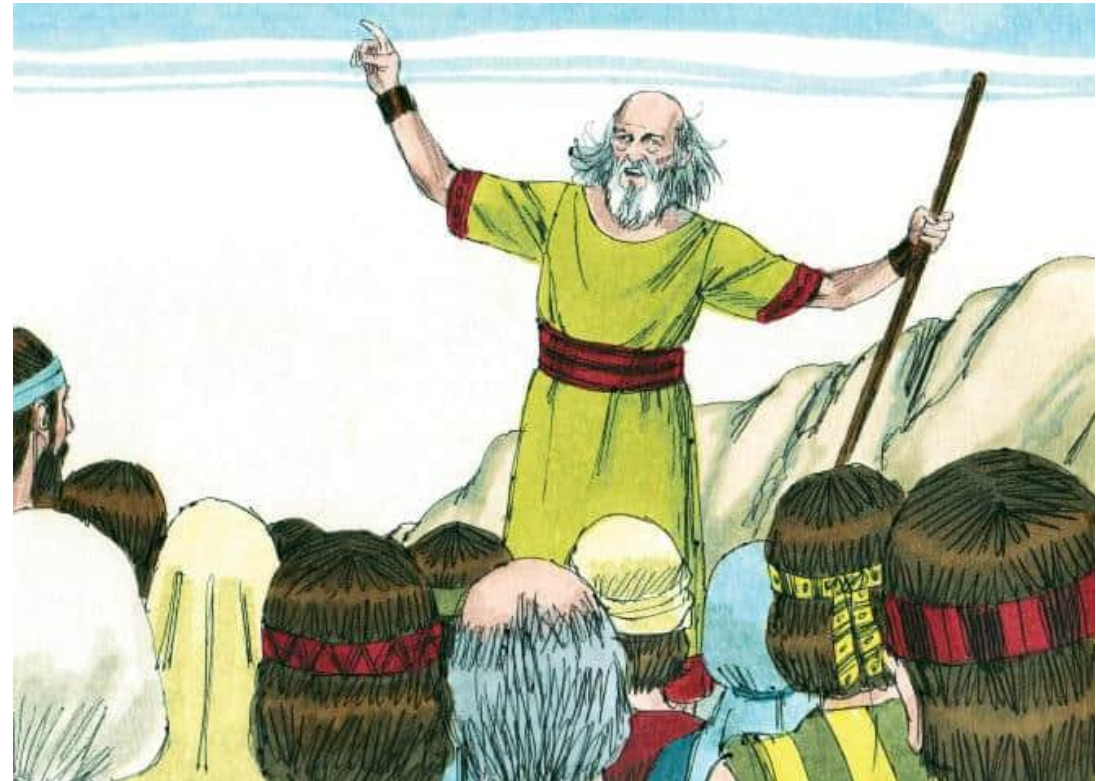
Samuel Grew....

- **Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.**
- **The LORD appeared again in Shiloh:**
- When did the LORD first appear in Shiloh?
- We know He appeared to Samuel in [1 Samuel 3:10](#). Now, in some undescribed way, the LORD appeared again.
- **The LORD revealed Himself... by the word of the LORD.**
- God reveals Himself by His word. Whenever God is moving, He will reveal Himself **by the word of the LORD.**



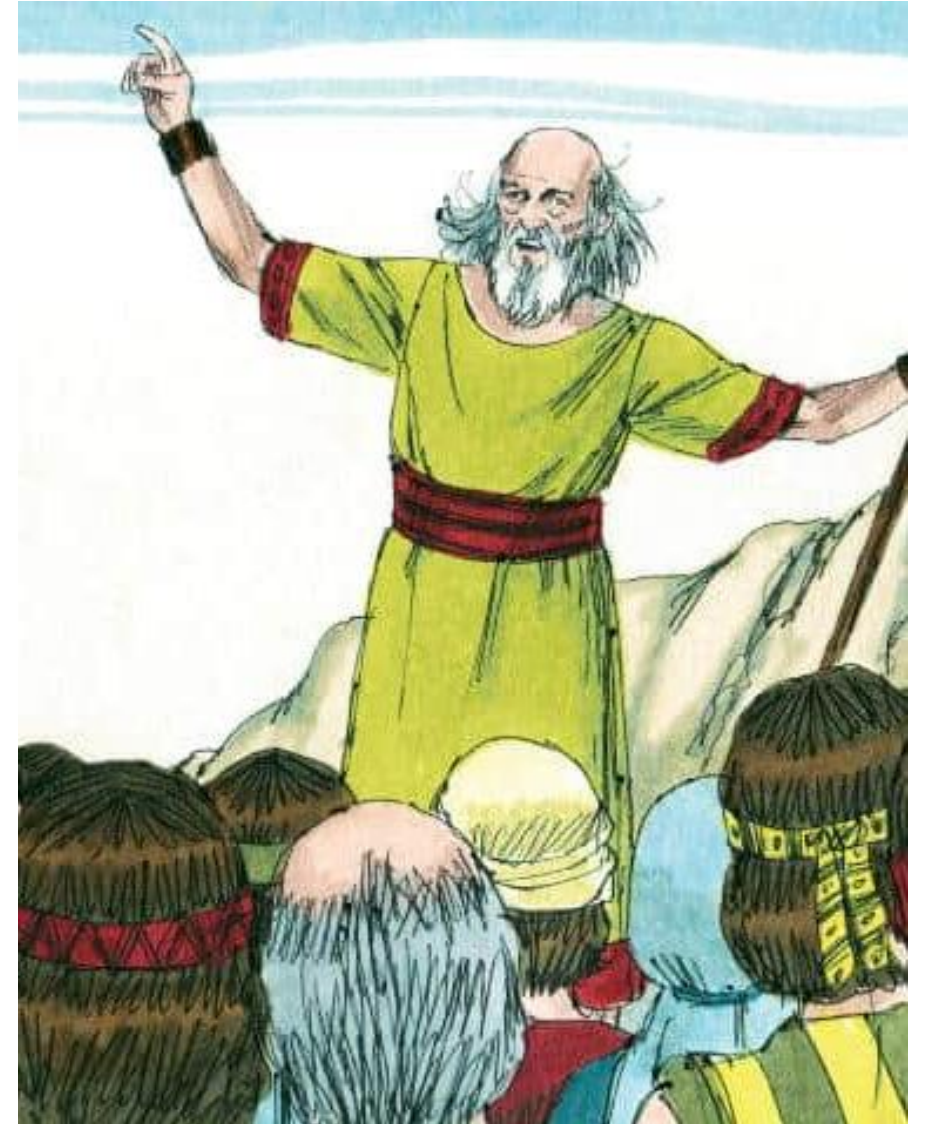
Chapter 7....

- Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, *then* put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only;
- and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.” So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. 7:3-4
- Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel:
- God raised up Samuel as a prophet and a judge ([1 Samuel 4:1](#)). Yet Samuel was strangely absent from the whole Ark of the Covenant fiasco.
- [1 Samuel 4:1](#) is the last place Samuel was mentioned, right before Israel schemed to use the ark as a good luck charm in battle.



Call To Repentance...

- **If you return with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods:**
- Samuel called the nation to repentance. The repentance had to be *inward* (**with all your hearts**) and *outward* (**put away the foreign gods**).
- The inward was more important than the outward, and it had to come first. That is why Samuel *first* called Israel to **return with all your hearts**, then told them to **put away the foreign gods**.
- However, inward repentance is a secret thing. It is hidden. No one can really “see” the heart of another.
- Yet the inward was proved by the outward. We can know if Israel did **return with all your hearts** by seeing if they really did **put away the foreign gods**. No one could see their heart, but they *could* see if they **put away the foreign gods**.



False gods...

- **So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only:**
- *Baal* and *Ashtoreth* were popular idols among the people of Israel. *Baal* was attractive because he was thought to be the god of weather, bringing good crops and financial success.
- *Ashtoreth* was attractive because she was thought to be the goddess of fertility, thus connected to love and sex.
- Ashtoreth was worshipped over a wide area as the goddess of fertility, love and war, and plaques of naked female figures from the Bronze and Iron Ages in Palestine are numerous. The *Baals* were the corresponding male deities.” (Baldwin)



Gather at Mizpah...

- And Samuel said, “Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.” So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured *it* out before the LORD.
- And they fasted that day, and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.” And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.
- **Gather all Israel to Mizpah:**
 - This is where Jacob separated from Laban ([Genesis 31:49](#)) and was the gathering place for a repentant Israel in [Judges 20:1](#).
 - This was a place remembered for separation and repentance.
 - **I will pray to the LORD for you:** Samuel already called the nation to repentance, and they made a start at it. Samuel knew God’s work in them could only be completed through prayer.



Together at Mizpah...

- **So they gathered together at Mizpah:**
- This showed the *spiritual* need Israel felt at the time. They expressed their repentance both by putting away the bad and by pursuing the good.
- The *experience* of conviction of sin proves nothing. It is our response to conviction that demonstrates repentance.
- **Drew water, and poured it out before the LORD:** In this context a ceremonial pouring of water demonstrated the soul poured out before the LORD. It was an expression of emptiness and need.
- The Chaldean translation of this passage gives this sense well: “They poured out their hearts like water in penance before the Lord.” “They seemed to say in effect, We could wish to shed as many tears for our sins as there are drops of water in this bucket; but because we cannot do this, behold, we do what we can.” (Trapp)



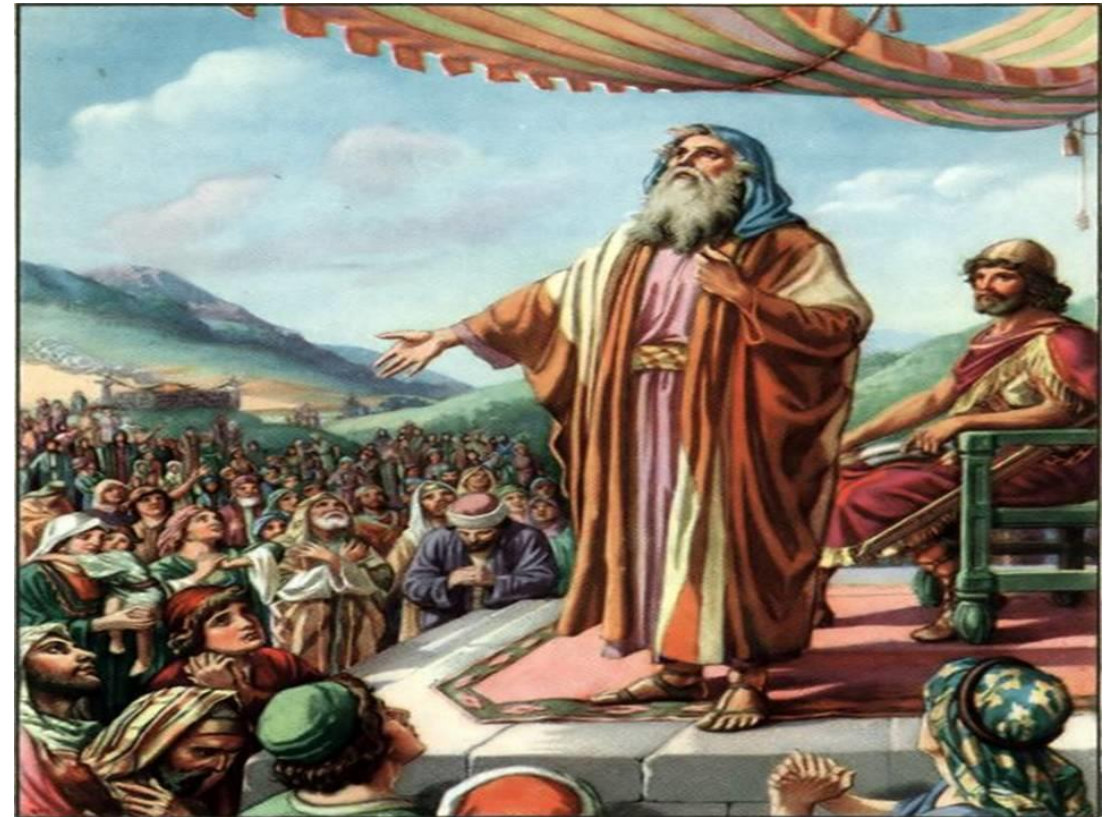
And They Fasted...

- **And they fasted that day, and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.”**
- Israel also expressed their sorrow over their sin by *fasting* (a message that nothing else really mattered except getting right with God) and by *confession* (a straightforward claim of guilt and responsibility).
- [1 John 1:5-10](#) makes it clear that confession is vital to maintain *relationship* with God.
- As God convicts us of sin or sins that hinder fellowship with Him, we must confess it and receive forgiveness and cleansing for our relationship with God to continue without hindrance.
- If it is meant from the heart, it is hard to make a better statement of confession than **“We have sinned against the LORD.”** This is almost exactly what David said when he was confronted with his sin in [2 Samuel 12:13](#).



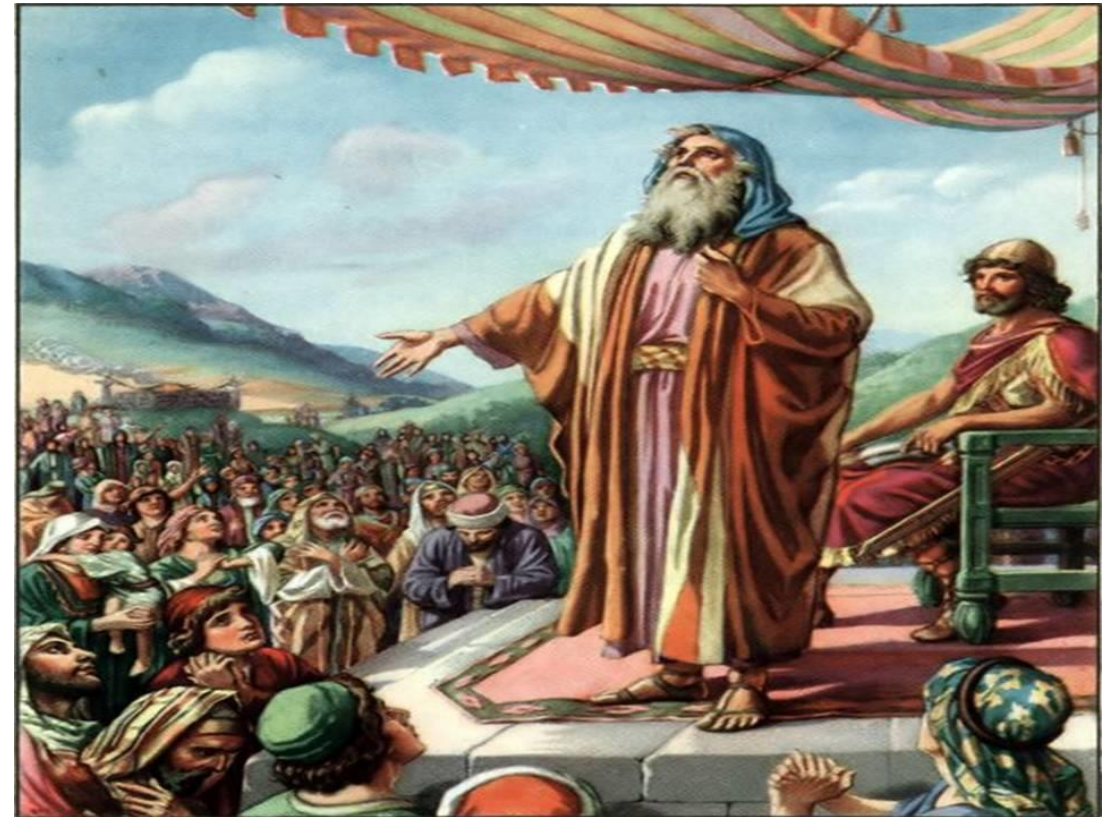
The Philistines...

- **Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. 7:7**
- **When the Philistines heard:** The Philistines were right to be afraid of a repentant, God-seeking Israel, because with God fighting for them Israel was invincible.
- When the Philistines looked at a humble and repentant Israel they probably saw *weakness*. They may have said, "Look at those weakling Israelites."
- They are such wimps, crying out before their God like this." If the Philistines thought this way, they were wrong.
- **When the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines:** The Israelites didn't have much more spiritual understanding than the Philistines. They should have been more confident in the LORD.



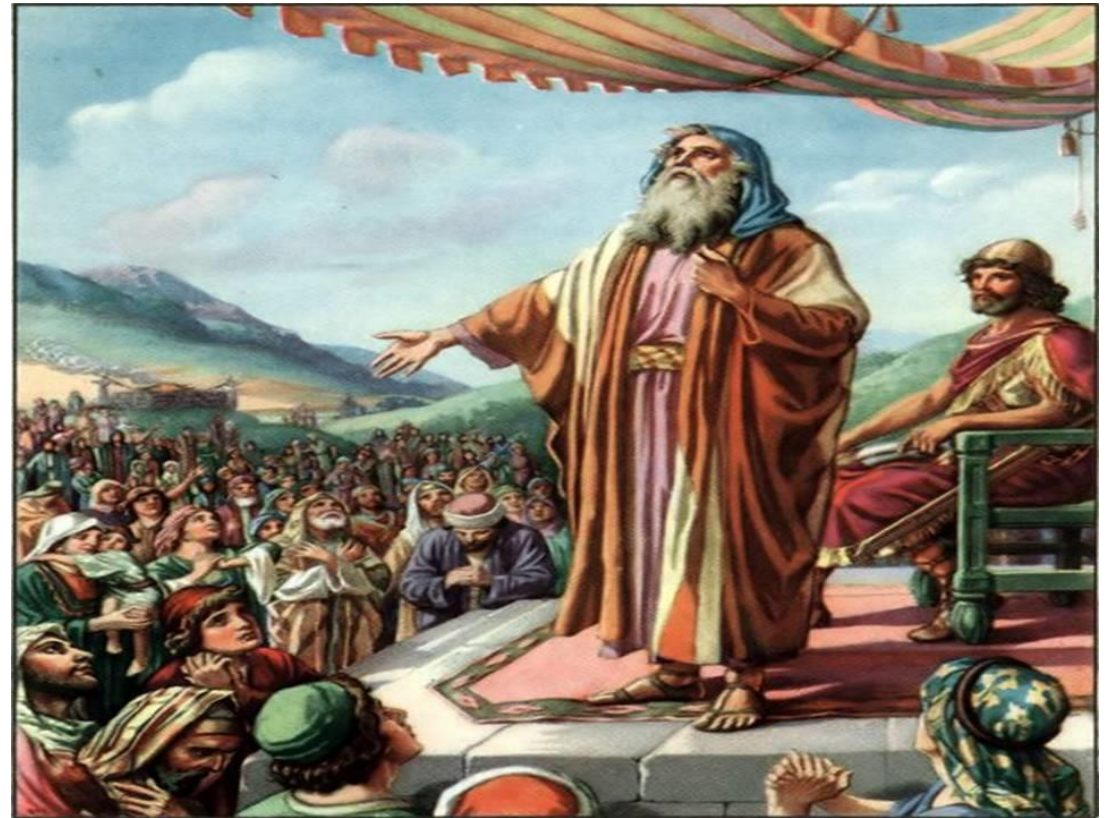
Cry Out To The Lord...

- **So the children of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines.”**
- **And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.**
- **Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us:** The last time Israel was in this kind of situation they said, “Let’s get the Ark of the Covenant and take it into battle with us. Then we can’t lose!” Now they are much wiser before the LORD, and instead of trusting in the ark they did the right thing and asked Samuel to **cry out to the LORD our God for us.**
- **Samuel took a sucking lamb and offered it as whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out**
- Samuel took time for a sacrifice at such a critical time because he knew he could only effectively pray in light of God’s atoning sacrifice.



The Lord Answers Prayer!

- **And the LORD answered him:**
The battle has not yet been fought and a hostile Philistine army approached.
- Yet in a real way the battle was over and already won because **the LORD answered him.**
- The Bible speaks of Samuel as a mighty man of prayer:
- *Samuel was among those who called upon His name; they called upon the LORD, and He answered them. ([Psalm 99:6](#))*

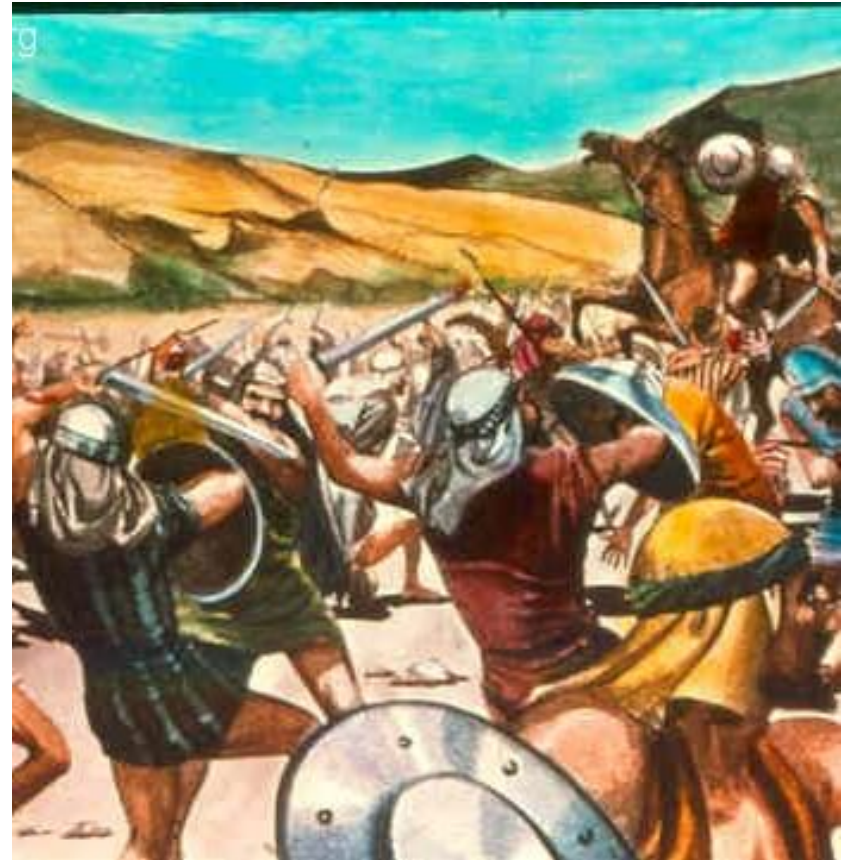


- a. **The LORD thundered with a loud thunder:**
- God fought from heaven on behalf of Israel and defeated the Philistines.
- This was a special work of God because the Israelites heard the same thunder, but only the Philistines became **so confused... that they were overcome**. God not only sent thunder,
- He also sent *confusion* to the Philistines and *confidence* to Israel.
- This was the kind of victory Israel hoped for in [1 Samuel 4](#) when they brought the Ark of the Covenant into battle.
- If they had only repented and sought the LORD as they did here, they could have had this kind of victory long ago.



Ebenezer....

- **Called its name Ebenezer, saying “Thus far the LORD has helped us”:**
- Samuel knew the nation needed to remember this amazing victory, which came to a humble and repentant Israel.
- The LORD won this battle, not Israel — so he named the stone **Ebenezer**, meaning “stone of help.”
- **“Thus far the LORD has helped us”:** Samuel knew the LORD did a great work yet he knew there was much more to be accomplished.
- So he could say, **“Thus far the LORD has helped us.”** God helps us **thus far** at a time and His past work is a pledge of future help.
- **Thus far the LORD has helped us** can either mean “to this point in time” or “to this geographical place.” Probably both are in mind; Hebrew writers loved to use double meanings.



All The Days...

- **So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.**
- **Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.**
- **The hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel... the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel:**
- Samuel was not a military man, but he was just as successful or more successful than Israel's best generals because the LORD fought for Samuel.
- **Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites:**
- Samuel was successful not only as a man of war, but also as a man of peace.



Samuel The Judge...

- **And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places. But he always returned to Ramah, for his home *was* there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the LORD.**
- **Judged Israel all the days of his life:** Samuel was used of God all his days. Some judges ended their ministry early or in disgrace, but Samuel finished well.
- **He went from year to year on a circuit... and judged Israel in all those places:** Samuel worked hard in his service of the LORD. Every year, Samuel worked hard to go all about Israel to help settle disputes and promote righteousness.
- **He always returned to Ramah... and there he built an altar to the LORD:** Samuel remained faithful to the LORD. An altar was a place of sacrifice and worship, and Samuel had a consistent relationship with the LORD in sacrifice and worship.



New Year Beginning...

- Welcome back from our intermission from December
- We will embark on this journey through the scriptures together this Year.
- It's a Year of Growth in the Word and in the Spirit.
- We are also in a season of Fasting and Prayer. That's why there has been a lot of Health battles already with many.
- I encourage You to make ONE Disciple this year. From your own family, circle of relationships, community, sphere or neighbourhood.
- Culled from the Blue Letter Bible



INTERMISSION....



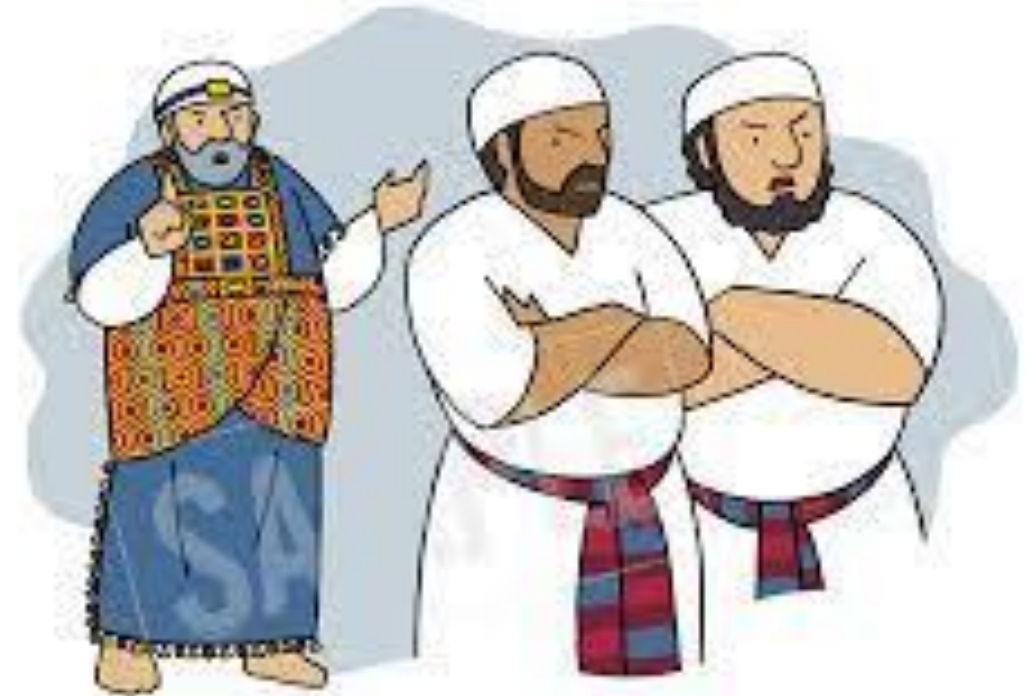
Joel and Abijah

- 1 Samuel 8:1-3
- Samuel appoints his sons as judges.
- Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; *they were* judges in Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.
- **When Samuel was old... he made his sons judges over Israel:**
- Samuel was one of the godliest men in the entire Bible.
- Yet his action here may be a sin on his part. We never have the pattern of **judges** being appointed by men or of the office of judge being passed from father to son. Samuel was not right to appoint **his sons judges over Israel**.
- Samuel was a Man of prayer but we do not see him praying and receiving God's approval about this action.



Joel and Abijah...

- [\(1 Samuel 8:4-5\)](#) Samuel's sons are rejected as leaders over Israel.
- Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."
- a. **All the elders of Israel gathered:** It was wise for the elders of Israel to do this. They did not have to accept leaders who were obviously ungodly and unfit to lead.
- b. **Now make for us a king to judge us like all the nations:** While it was wise for the elders of Israel to reject Samuel's sons as leaders, it was wrong for them to say this.
- i. In itself, the desire to have a king was not bad. God knew one day Israel would have a king. 400 years before this God gave instructions to Israel about their future king ([Deuteronomy 17:14-20](#)). A king was in God's plan for Israel.
- ii. Yet, the *reason* Israel wanted a king was wrong. "Like all the nations" is no reason at all. We often get into trouble by wanting to be like the world when we should instead be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ ([Romans 12:1-2](#)).



Joel and Abijah

- **His sons did not walk in his ways:**
- This is why Samuel was wrong to appoint his **sons as judges over Israel.**
- Samuel probably could not look objectively at his sons. He excused sins in them that he saw in others.
- Why is it that sometimes good Fathers have bad Sons and Good Sons have Bad Fathers?
- We see this recurring theme throughout history, anecdotally and even in our own families



Make Us a King...

- [\(1 Samuel 8:6-8\)](#) Samuel prays about their request and God answers.
- **But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day — with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also.”**
- a. **The thing displeased Samuel:** No doubt, Samuel was stung by the rejection of his sons. But more than that, Samuel saw the ungodly motive behind the elders’ request for a king.
- b. **So Samuel prayed to the LORD:** This is the right thing to do whenever we are **displeased**. We should never carry such troubles with us. Instead, we should do what Samuel did when he **prayed to the LORD**.
- i. “Surely it is the mistake of our life, that we carry our burdens instead of handing them over; that we worry instead of trusting; that we pray so little.” (Meyer)



Make Us A King...

- [\(1 Samuel 8:10-18\)](#) Samuel warns the nation of the responsibilities of having a king.
- So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint *them* for his own chariots and *to be* his horsemen, and *some* will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, *will set some* to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and *some* to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters *to be* perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give *them* to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put *them* to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."
- a. **This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you:** God wanted Israel to know there would be problems connected with having a king. In Israel's view, they had problems that would be solved by having a king. While those problems may have been solved, God wanted them to know a king would also *bring* other problems. They should carefully weigh the *benefits* against the *problems*.
- b. **He will take... He will take... he will take... He will take... he will take... He will take... And you will be his servants:** The LORD gives fair warning. Most kings are *takers*, not *givers* and they come to be served, not to serve. If Israel wants a king they must realize he will be a taker not a giver, and they **will be his servants**.



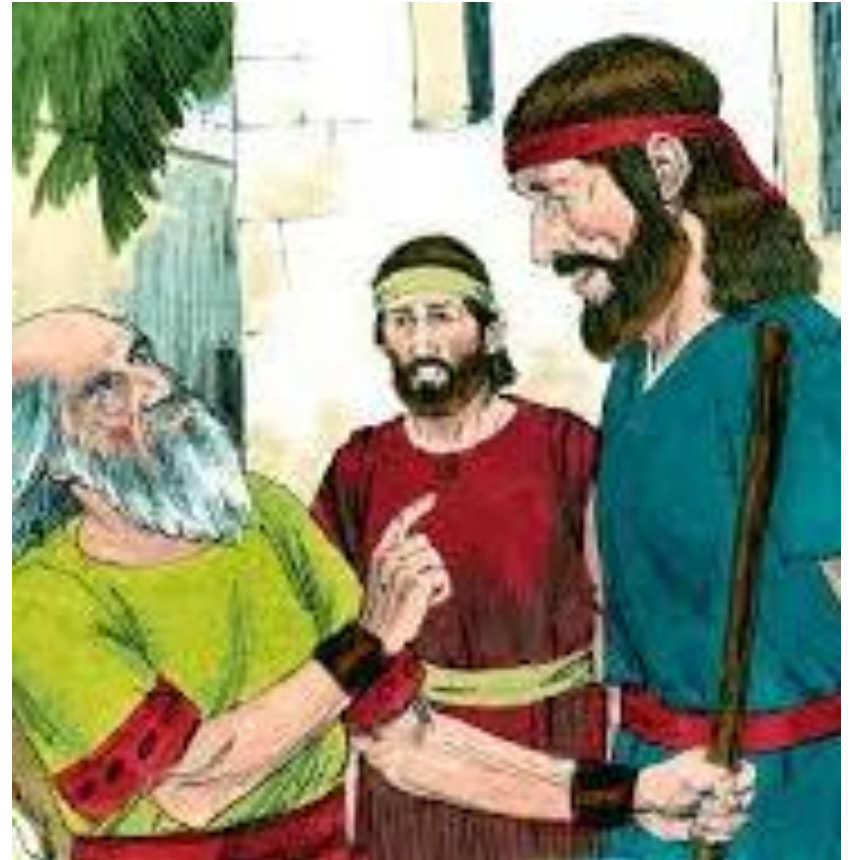
Saul The Son of Kish...

- **1 Samuel 9** introduces Saul, at this point still living and working in his father's household.
- Saul was the son of Kish, a Benjamite from, as Saul says, "the smallest of the tribes of Israel," and the least of those clans (**1 Samuel 9:21**).
- Physically, he was "as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and a head taller than anyone else" (**1 Samuel 9:2**).



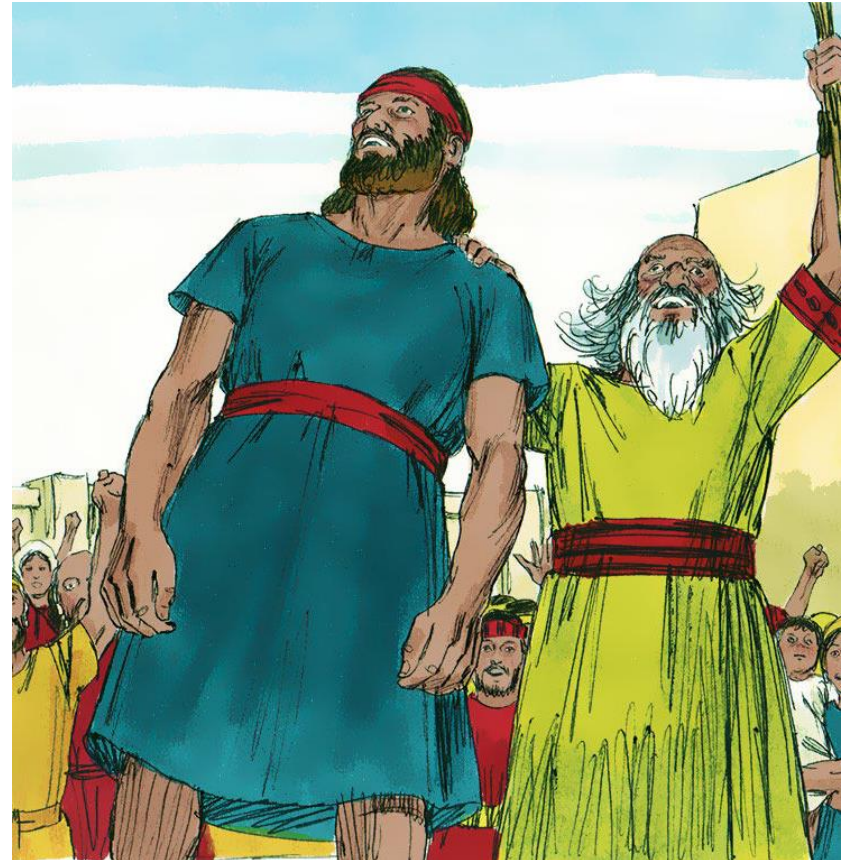
Saul Son Of Kish...

- On a search for missing donkeys, Saul encountered the prophet, who had been sent to meet him. They ate together, and the next day Samuel told him he was to be king and anointed him with oil.
- Samuel instructed Saul to leave that town and to join up with a group of prophets in Gibeah for a time of worship. There, Saul was touched by God's Spirit and prophesied with them. He then returned home to wait for him.
- Seven days later, Samuel gathered the nation at Mizbah. He announced that according to their demands, God would be giving them a king. He singled out the tribe of Benjamin, then the clan of Kish, then Saul individually as the chosen king.



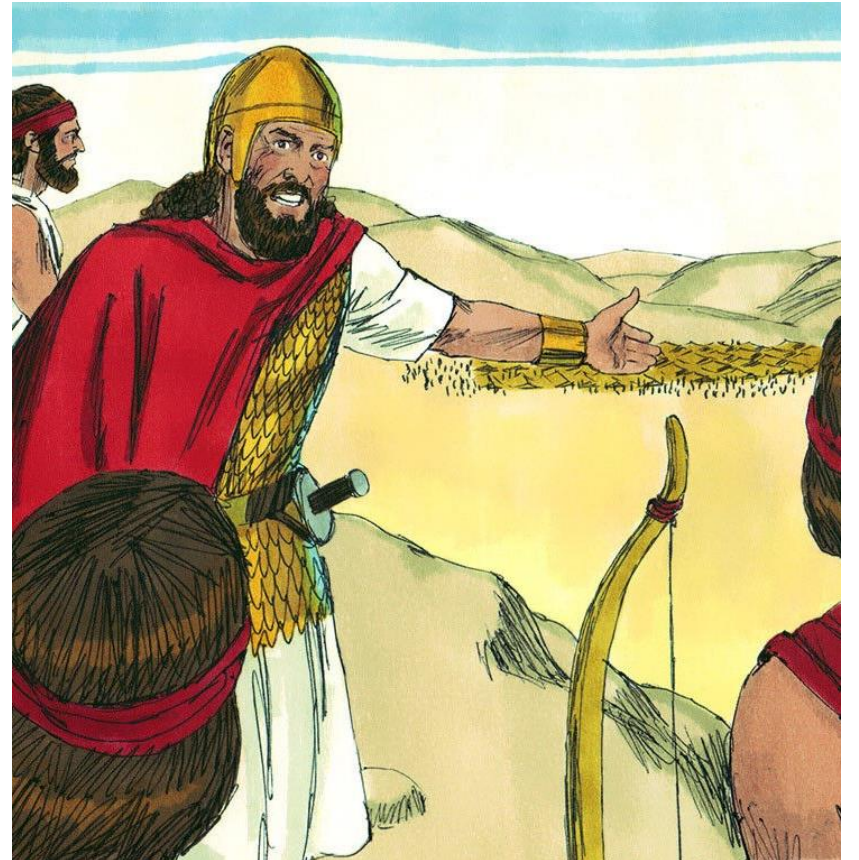
King Saul From Benjamin...

- Saul had tried to hide among some nearby supplies. But God revealed him, and the young man was presented to the assembly.
- Saul quickly became a leader, rescuing men at Jabesh Gilead, and called the people to worship the Lord for their success. He was then confirmed as king in his home of Gilgal. (**1 Samuel 11**).
- The reign of **King Saul** lasted 42 years. Much of that time Israel was at war, with countries including Philistia, Moab, Edom and Amalek.
- Saul and his son Jonathan waged many successful campaigns with a volunteer army against each of them



King Saul...

- Saul's authority over Israel stayed mostly in the military realm. He spent little time on internal affairs, and was not engaged in matters of **faith**. In fact, Saul showed disobedience toward God publicly in at least two instances:
- 1. He offered up burnt and fellowship offerings on the battlefield when he was supposed to wait for the prophet Samuel to do the ritual (**1 Samuel 13**).
- 2. He refused to destroy Amalek as God commanded him to (**1 Samuel 15**).
- These wrong decisions led to a fracture in Saul's relationship with his Lord and also with Samuel. As time went on, this division led the king to bouts of depression. Music seemed to soothe him, and David was brought into the court because he could play lute and sing songs that would soothe Saul



King Saul...

- David became a trusted member of Saul's court and later served in his army.
- As David grew in status, the king became jealous when the young man's fame started to overshadow his own.
- But instead of humbly seeking God's help to overcome his strong emotions, Saul indulged in and acted on them.
- Saul tried to turn his son and daughter against David, which failed.
- Eventually, he waged an all-out attempt on David's life, chasing him to the borders of Israel.



King Saul...

- Saul's acts of disobedience caused the Lord to take away his kingship. Samuel told him that because of his foolish choices, Saul would be replaced on the throne.
- His final days were filled with the obsessive hunt for David, as well as other manic and destructive behavior.
- As the Philistines mounted new attacks on the nation, Saul desperately ordered a diviner to call up the ghost of Samuel.
- Saul was told that the Israelite army would be defeated. The next day, the words of Samuel came to pass, and Saul and his son Jonathan were both killed during the battle.



Lesson 1...

- **1. God judges us by our hearts, not our outward appearance**
- “The Lord does not look at the things people look at.
- People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (**1 Samuel 16:7**).
- The Israelites wanted a man for a king, and Saul certainly looked the part - physically strong and handsome.
- In time, however, his faulty inner thoughts and attitudes began to show on the outside as well. God wasn't surprised, though, and had his replacement in mind



Lesson 2...

- **2. God wants us to have confidence in Him, not pride in ourselves**
- “That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble’” (**James 4:6**).
- Saul let his position as king fill him up with an inflated sense of self-importance.
- Eventually, he even assumed that he was qualified to take on duties meant for the priests. The Lord saw each overstep, and rebuked him through Samuel.



Lesson 3...

- **3. God calls us to follow His Will, not our own**
- “So be strong, act like a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires:
- Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses.
- Do this so that you may prosper in all you do...” (1 Kings 2:2-3)
- Though Saul was chosen to be the Israelites’ earthly king, the Lord was still the highest authority for the nation.
- He expected Saul to be the model of Godly submission and obedience, and grieved when Saul didn’t accept that role.



Lesson 4...



- **4. God calls us to follow His commands faithfully, not selectively**
- “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.
- All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God...” (**Deuteronomy 28:1-2**)
- Saul was blessed with gifts such as confidence and passion. But pride, insecurity and impatience in certain moments led him to disregard what he knew was right, and to then try and defend himself. Because his heart was not fully given to God, he lost his position and favor.
- The story of **King Saul** is really a cautionary tale that applies to every believer, since we all have influence on those around us.
- His kingship reminds us that the best earthly leaders aren’t meant to take the place of God, but to point people to the true Lord of their lives.
- Culled from H.Samuels –Facts and lessons from King Saul