

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, September 4, 2022, 10:00 AM

Message Series: The Fall and Rise of Kings

Week 2 – Sinful Sacrifices and Incomplete Obedience Resulted in God’s Rejection of Saul as King of Israel

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Context: Saul was involved in the wars with the Amalekites. He obeyed God’s command partially. Saul was responsible for his fate, which was sealed because of his sin. He continued to be a king until his death. He was a name-only king. Saul failed to execute the ban on a holy war against Amalekites. Additionally, Saul did not repent and confess genuinely. As a result, Samuel and Saul's relationship was broken, and they part their company.

If Saul had put God’s command, God would have established his kingdom over Israel all the time (1 Samuel 13:13). In 13:15, Samuel said to Saul, "Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." In 1 Samuel 15:22, Samuel replied, "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." This scripture passage points out a typical prophetic call to go beyond the physical act of sacrifice to consider a matter of the heart. Sacrifices are an external and physical phenomenon that reflects a spiritual reality between God and humans. However, the sacrifice itself is meaningless if one's motives are impure or ungodly. Religious rituals can quickly become a burden unless accompanied by appropriate heartfelt repentance, love, worship and adoration of God.

How did Saul respond to prophetic correction? After being confronted, his sins were exposed. He was still using his avoidance tactics. But God rejected Saul because Saul had rejected God. Saul's confessions were nothing more than an acknowledgment of wrongdoing. He didn't show sincerity and a contrite heart in his confession.

With David, there was no evasion or argumentation. He said, "I have sinned against the LORD" (2 Sam. 12:13). David did not attempt to defend himself or to offer a contrite confession that would in some way explain his virtual innocence. He was a broken man (2 Sam. 12:16-18). Not so with Saul. He was unrepentant, showing no remorse or contrition. But David's repentance was effective in terms of confession, forgiveness, and restoration. No wonder he became Israel's greatest king. But God rejected Saul as the king of Israel.

Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Grieving the Wrong – A story of profound spiritual grief
 - B. Why did Yahweh reject Saul as king of Israel?

- II. All about Saul: Victory, Samuel’s Confrontation and Condemnation and Parting
 - A. Saul’s Victory over the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:1-9)
 - B. Samuel Confronts and Condemns Saul (15: 10-31)

Illus: Jumping to Defy Law
 - C. Samuel and Judge Parted (15: 32-35)

- III. Some Practical Implications

Illus: Behavior Clue – Your Behavior is a Reflection of What You Truly Believe

 - A. Routine Ritual of Confession vs. Genuine Confession, Worship, and Fellowship?
 - B. Practicing Christian Faith Today: Obedience Better Than Sacrifice
 - C. Samuel Stands before all who sin and raises his question: “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears?”

- IV. Conclusion:
 - A. How would we like Saul (unrepentant heart) or David (repentant heart)?

- B. How are you? What situation are you in your life?
- C. Christ's active and passive obedience
- D. Come to Jesus: In Christ, we are accepted, adopted, and given everlasting life; indeed, He sets us FREE!

Questions and Answers (Refer to 1 Samuel 15:1-35, NIV for answers)

1. Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD." This is what the LORD Almighty says: (1 Samuel 15:2, NIV)
 - A. "I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt
 - B. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them
 - C. Do not spare them; put men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys to death."
 - D. Only A & B are correct, E. All answers are correct.
2. Then Saul attacked the Amalekites...Circle one; True/T or False/F? (1 Samuel 15: 7-9)
 - A. "He took Agag king of Amalekites alive, and all his people Saul totally destroyed with the sword (T/F)
 - B. "But Saul and the army did not spare Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs – everything that was good." T/F
 - C. "Every that was despised and weak they totally did not destroy." T/F
3. Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: (1 Samuel 15:10-11)
 - A. I regret making Saul king because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.
 - B. Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the LORD all that night
 - C. Early in the morning, Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul was gone to Carmel."
 - D. There he has set up a monument in his honor and turned and went on down to Gilgal D. All choices are correct
4. Samuel told Saul what the Lord had told him last night: (1 Sam. 15:17)
 - A. You were once small in your own eyes. Did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel?
 - B. The LORD anointed you king over Israel.
 - C. God sent you on a mission, saying, "Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out."
 - D. Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?
5. The problems with Saul were: (Refer to 1 Samuel 15: 20-21, 22b, 24-25, and 30)
 - A. He partially obeyed and had no respect for God's business
 - B. Not listening to the instructions and following them strictly
 - C. Not having genuine repentance, always wanting to save his face and being afraid of them, and giving in to them
 - D. All of the above
6. Which statement is correct? A. Samuel said, "Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king" (15:23b). B. God, the glory of Israel doesn't lie or change his mind (15:29a). D. Samuel mourned, and God regretted that he had made Saul King over Israel (15:35). E. All are correct
7. Amalekites are enemies of Israel; they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt, but Kenites are friends of Israel; they showed kindness to Israelites when they came up out of Egypt (1 Samuel 15:2, 6) A. True B. False