

8. The Monarchy: Pt. 1

Introduction

- Old Testament Overview
- New testament Overview
- The Beginnings
- The Age of the Patriarchs
- The Exodus out of Egypt
- The Wilderness Wanderings
 - Camped at Mt Sinai
 - Journey to the Promised Land
 - Camped on the Plains of Moab
- The Conquest of Canaan
- The Period of the Judges

The Monarchy: Pt. 1

Introduction

I. The Setting

- A. The 12 tribes of Israel had lapsed into a loosely grouped nation largely concentrated along a narrow strip on the central ridge of Israel (90 miles N by S and 15-35 miles E by W)
- B. We are now at the end of the period of the Judges and at the beginning of the Monarchy
 - The Exodus (1446 BC)
 - The Wandering in the Wilderness (1446-1406 BC)
 - The Conquest of Canaan ((1406-1380 BC)
 - The Period of the Judges (1380-1052 BC)
 - Samuel is the last of the Judges (c. 1105-1030 BC)
 - The Beginning of the Monarchy (1052-931 BC)
 - Saul (reigned: 1052-1011 BC)
 - David (reigned: 1011-971 BC)
 - Solomon (reigned: 971-931 BC)

II. Samuel: Judge, Prophet, and King-Maker (I Samuel 1:17:17)

- A. Samuel the Prophet (I Sam. 1:1-4:1)
 - 1. The Birth and Childhood of Samuel (1:1-2:26)
 - Hannah's vow to the Lord concerning a child (1:9-11)
 - The Lord "remembers her" (1:19-20)
 - Samuel "ministering before the Lord" and "grew before the Lord"

2. The Prophecy against the House of Eli (2:22-36)

- Eli (High-Priest at Shiloh) had condoned the wickedness of his sons Hophni (Egyptian for “tadpole”) and Phineas (Egyptian for “nubian”)
- God sent a prophet to denounce the House of Eli and predict their untimely death

3. The call of the boy Samuel (3:1-4:1)

- The Lord calls Samuel at night but Samuel mistakes it for the call of Eli (3x)
- The 4th time Samuel responds (3:10-14)

“10 Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for Thy servant is listening.” 11 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 “In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 “For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them. 14 “And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

B. Samuel the Judge of Israel (I Sam. 4:1-7:17)

1. The Ark of the Covenant is captured by the Philistines (4:1-5:12)

- The Philistines defeat Israel at Aphek and Ebenezer
- Israel asks, “Why has the Lord defeated us today?” (4;3)
- They decide to bring the Ark of the Covenant out from Shiloh and into the battle camp
- When the Ark arrives the people shout and the Philistines are alarmed
- This causes the Philistines to strengthen themselves and they defeat Israel and take the Ark (for 7 months)

2. The Ark of the Covenant is returned to Israel (6:1-7:17)

- Because of the plague on the Philistines they send the Ark out of their camp
- Originally returned to Beth Shemesh (6:1-19)
- Subsequently placed in Kiriath Jearim (6:20- 7:17)

III. Saul: The First King of Israel (8:1-15:35)

A. Israel demands a King ((8:1-22)

- Samuel has grown old and has appointed his sons as Judges over Israel

8:2 Now the name of his first-born was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judging in Beersheba. 3 His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.

- The people demand a king be appointed over them

8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; 5 and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.”

- The demand displeased Samuel and he sought the Lord about this request

6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. 8 “Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day — in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also. 9 “Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.”

- Samuel warns the people of the effects of appointing a King over them, but they refuse to change their minds

1Sam. 8:19 Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, “No, but there shall be a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” 21 Now after Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the LORD’s hearing. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to their voice, and appoint them a king.” So Samuel said to the men of Israel, “Go every man to his city.”

B. Saul is chosen to be King (9:1-11:15)

- Saul’s family lost their donkeys and his father sent him and a servant to look for them
- They were unable to find them so Saul decided to stop his search and return
- Saul was aware of a holy man (Samuel) and suggested that they visit him and seek his advice on where the donkeys were
- Samuel had been told by God to expect a visit from Saul

9:15 Now a day before Saul’s coming, the LORD had revealed this to Samuel saying, 16 “About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over My people Israel; and he shall deliver My people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have regarded My people, because their cry has come to Me.” 17 When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, “Behold, the man of whom I spoke to you! This one shall rule over My people.”

- Samuel told Saul that he shouldn't worry about the donkeys (they had been found)
- Samuel later anointed Saul as King and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him

10:1 Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you a ruler over His inheritance?"

10:9 Then it happened when he turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart . . . and the Spirit of God came upon him mightily . . ."

- Samuel calls the Nation together and proclaims Saul as their King

10:17 Thereafter Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah; 18 and he said to the sons of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought Israel up from Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians, and from the power of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' 19 "But you today rejected your God, who delivers you from all your calamities and your distresses; yet you have said, 'No, but set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans."

- Saul hides from Samuel in the military supplies but is found

23 So they ran and took him from there, and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. 24 And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? Surely there is no one like him among all the people." So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"

C. Samuel rebukes the Nation for having sought a King (12:1-25)

1. Samuel makes it clear that it was sin for the people to ask for a king but that God would be merciful in still watching over the people if they remained faithful

- Fear prompted the people to seek a King:

12:12 "When you saw that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' although the LORD your God was your king. 13 "Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen, whom you have asked for, and behold, the LORD has set a king over you.

- Samuel promises that the Lord would still be merciful:

14 "If you will fear the LORD and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the LORD, then both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God. 15 "And if you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the command of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers. . ."

- The people acknowledge their sin in asking for a King:

12: 19 "Then all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, so that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil by asking for ourselves a king."

- Samuel again promises grace and mercy from the Lord

20 And Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. 21 "And you must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which can not profit or deliver, because they are futile. 22 "For the LORD will not

abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself. 23 “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way. 24 “Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. 25 “But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away.”

D. The Reign and Decline of Saul (13:1-15:35)

- Following his coronation, Saul (and son Jonathan—“the Lord has given”) immediately attacked the Philistines
- This caused the Philistines to gather for attack at Michmash and this frightened the Israelites

13:5 Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the seashore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven. 6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait (for the people were hard-pressed), then the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in cliffs, in cellars, and in pits. 7 Also some of the Hebrews crossed the Jordan into the land of Gad and Gilead. But as for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

- After anointing Saul, Samuel had commanded Saul to wait for him at Gilgal seven days so that he could tell Saul what he should do

7 . . . But as for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 1Sam. 13:8 Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him. 9 So Saul said, “Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering. 10 And it came about as soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, that behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and to greet him.

- Samuel confronts Saul about his sin and Saul rationalizes his disobedience

13:11 But Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, 12 therefore I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the LORD.’ So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering.” 13 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 “But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

- Jonathan goes out to battle the Philistines (without Saul’s knowledge) while Saul is camped under a pomegranate tree
- Jonathan expresses great faith that God was able to give them victory if He so chose

14:6 Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, “Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the LORD will work for us, for the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few.”

- God in fact gave Israel the victory that day
- Saul continued to find success in battle

14:47 Now when Saul had taken the kingdom over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, the sons of Ammon, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines; and wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment. 48 And he acted valiantly and defeated the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them.

- At one point, Samuel directed Saul to attack the Amalakites. He told Saul not to spare any life—man, child, animal

15:1 Then Samuel said to Saul, “The LORD sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the LORD. 2 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. 3 ‘Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”

- Saul went out and attacked the Amalakites with great success

15:7 So Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is east of Egypt. 8 And he captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

- Samuel confronted Saul about his disobedience

15:10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, 11 “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not carried out My commands.” And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all night. 12 And Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul; and it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself, then turned and proceeded on down to Gilgal.” 13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have carried out the command of the LORD.” 14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” 15 And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed.” 16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Wait, and let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak!”

1Sam. 15:17 And Samuel said, “Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the LORD anointed you king over Israel, 18 and the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated.’ 19 “Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD?”

- Saul (again; cf. 13:11-14) rationalizes his disobedience

15:20 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 “But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

- Samuel pronounces God’s judgment on Saul

15:22 And Samuel said, “Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 “For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king.”

- Saul confesses his sin in the matter of the Amalakites and seeks the presence of Samuel as they depart—but Samuel initially refuses

15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice. 25 “Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.” 26 But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.”

- Saul seizes the robe of Samuel as Samuel turns to leave Saul and his robe rips. Samuel draws the analogy between the tearing away of the kingdom from Saul
- Saul presses Samuel to go with him as he leaves and Samuel agrees
- Samuel then directs that Agag the King of the Amalakites be brought before him

15:33 But Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before the LORD at Gilgal. 34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. 35 And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

- Samuel never again saw Saul until the day of Saul’s death