

June 8–14  
1 Samuel 8–10; 13; 15–16  
“The Lord Looketh on the Heart”



# Israel Desires a King

1 Sam 8:3-9

What reasons did the Israelites give for wanting a king?

Why does the Israelites' request show that they 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." ("Seek Not to Counsel the Lord", Ensign, August 1985)

# Israel Desires a King

1Sam 10:17-19

# Israel Desires a King

1Sam 8:10-20

Despite Samuel's strong warning and prophecy, what motivated the Israelites to still want 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)

# Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 9:1-6,10

What do Saul's actions in this passage reveal about his character and potential as a leader?

# Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 9:15-21

Why is humility an important quality in a leader, and how is it reflected in Saul's response?

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

What does it mean to have the Spirit of the Lord come upon someone and turn them into “another man”?

# Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 10:9-11

# Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 10:24-27

How did the people respond to Saul being appointed as king?

## 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 does Saul's response after the victory teach us about humility, mercy, and leadership?

# Saul Chosen To Be King

1Sam 12:1,14,25

What does this passage teach about the relationship between a leader and the people they lead?

# Saul Turns From Righteousness

1Sam 13:8-14

How had Saul sinned against the Lord, and how contrite was his response when Samuel confronted him?

What did Saul lose because he failed to obey the Lord?

## 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 do you think troubled Samuel most about Saul's disobedience?

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

How had Saul changed from when he was “little in his 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

What does this passage teach us about the difference between true obedience and merely outward acts of worship?

## 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 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

What does this passage teach us about how the Lord judges people differently than we do?

## 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... measures the heart as an indicator of the person's capacity and potential to bless others." (CR, Oct. 1988)

# David Is Anointed King

1 Sam 16:11-13

Note that Saul was still the king.

What does this teach us about being anointed to *become* a king?

# David Is Anointed King

1Sam 16:15-16,21-23

## Ezra Taft Benson

"Inspiring music may fill the soul with heavenly thoughts, move one to righteous action, or speak peace to the soul. When Saul was troubled with an evil spirit, David played for him with his harp and Saul was refreshed and the evil spirit departed." (CR, Oct. 1974)

Next Week:

June 15–21

1 Samuel 17–18; 24–26; 2 Samuel 5–7

“The Battle Is the Lord’s”

