

United Kingdom I

II SAMUEL 10 – 1 KINGS 11

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Lesson 1: Saul is Made King

Text: 1 Samuel 9:1 – 10:27

Lesson Focus:

Israel had asked for a king and Samuel was sent to anoint Saul as king over Israel. In this story we see the humility of Saul and the reluctance of all of Israel to unite in their support of him.

Questions

1. What tribe was Saul from? What was his physical description?
2. What circumstances brought Saul before Samuel?
3. What message had God given Samuel the day before Saul arrived?
4. What things would happen to Saul as he traveled back to his father?
5. What things show the humility of Saul at this time in his life?
6. Who had Israel rejected in asking for a king?
7. What did Samuel remind the person about the behavior of kings (1 Samuel 8)?
8. What was the reaction of the people to Saul's coronation as king?

Lesson 2: Israel Unites Under Saul

Text: 1 Samuel 11:1 – 12:25

Lesson Focus:

Although Saul was anointed king, the people had not united under his rule. It appears that Saul returned to his father and continued to work for him. However, he wisely unites Israel to fight against the Ammonites and, in so doing, unites them as a people.

Questions

1. What city did the Ammonites besiege? Find it on a map.
2. What were the terms of surrender that the Ammonites offered?
3. What message did Saul send to the tribes of Israel?
4. How many men came to fight for Israel? What was the result of the battle?
5. What did some people want to do to those who rejected Saul initially? What was Saul's response?
6. How had Samuel acted as a judge before the people?
7. What was essentially the message of Samuel at Saul's coronation?
8. How did the people react to the thunder and rain that Samuel asked God to send?
9. What is Samuel's exhortation at the conclusion of chapter 12?

Lesson 3: Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice

Text: 1 Samuel 13:1 – 13:23

Lesson Focus:

Saul, the once humble young man, becomes presumptuous before God by offering a sacrifice to him instead of waiting for Samuel. Consequently, his descendants will not sit on the throne in Israel.

Questions

1. Who began this latest war between Israel and the Philistines?
2. What happened to the army of Israel as Saul waited for Samuel? Why did he wait so long?
3. What did Saul do that displeased God? What were Saul's reasons for doing it?
4. What was the punishment for Saul's sin?
5. How many war companies did the Philistines send out? Where did they go?
6. What advantage did the Philistines have over Israel? Why?
7. Find the places discussed in this lesson on a map.

Lesson 4: Victory over the Philistines

Text: 1 Samuel 14:1 – 14:52

Lesson Focus:

God gives Israel victory over the Philistines and other enemies that surround them. During the Philistine war, Saul makes a foolish promise that almost cost his son's life.

Questions

1. What brave thing did Jonathan do? Why was he so brave?
2. What sign did Jonathan look for when he met the Philistines? How many people did he kill?
3. What was the cause of the noise in the Philistine camp? What two groups joined with Israel to fight against the Philistines?
4. What foolish oath did Saul make? What was Jonathan's assessment of the oath?
5. What effect did the oath have on the army? What sin did they commit?
6. Why did God not answer Saul in v.37? Who spared Jonathan's life?
7. What nations did Saul make war against? Be able to find them on a map.
8. What was the relationship to Abner, the commander of Saul's army, to Saul?

Lesson 5: Saul and the Amalekites

Text: 1 Samuel 15:1 – 15:35

Lesson Focus:

Although Saul has had great success against the enemies of Israel, he has made a series of foolish decisions that show presumption and poor judgment. In this lesson, he disobeys God and God reaffirms to Saul that he is going to lose the kingdom.

Questions

1. Why did God want the Amalekites punished? What was the punishment?
2. How did Saul disobey God?
3. Where had Saul been before Samuel met him? What does this tell us about Saul's view of himself?
4. What was Saul's greeting to Samuel? How did Samuel respond?
5. If the animals would have been killed (utterly destroyed) by sacrifice, why was this a violation of God's commandment?
6. Who did Saul blame for the sin? What was Samuel's response to the desire to sacrifice?
7. What was the relationship between Saul and Samuel after this incident?

Lesson 6: David is Anointed King

Text: 1 Samuel 16:1 – 16:23

Lesson Focus:

Samuel, who was mourning Saul's fall, was commanded to anoint David as the next king of Israel. Meanwhile, Saul becomes a tortured man.

Questions

1. How do we see the jealousy of Saul for his throne?
2. To what city and what tribe was Samuel sent to anoint the next king?
3. How did God and Samuel look at the sons of Jesse differently?
4. Who was anointed? Was he the oldest or the youngest of his brothers?
5. What was troubling Saul? How did his servants feel that Saul could be refreshed?
6. How does David come into Saul's presence?
7. Note that the progression of events in verses 21-23 probably did not take place until after the defeat of Goliath. This is likely speaking of the future relationship between Saul and David and setting the stage for Saul's jealousy.

Lesson 7: David and Goliath

Text: 1 Samuel 17:1 – 17:58

Lesson Focus:

David, who is still keeping sheep with his father, is sent to take provisions to his brothers who are with the army of Saul. David, with great faith in God, defeats the enemy of Israel but becomes the focus of Saul's jealousy.

Questions

1. What was the challenge of Goliath? How often did he make the challenge? What was the response of Israel?
2. Why did David go out to the army of Israel?
3. What had been promised to the one who would defeat Goliath?
4. What was David's assessment of Goliath? How did his brothers respond?
5. What weapons did David take against Goliath? What was Goliath's reaction?
6. Why was David so confident?
7. What was the result of the contest?

Lesson 8: Saul's Jealousy

Text: 1 Samuel 18:1 – 18:30

Lesson Focus:

The people and Jonathan, Saul's son, love David. Saul takes him into the kingly court to live permanently. However, Saul's jealousy drives him to seek David's life.

Questions

1. What song made Saul angry?
2. How did Saul react when David was playing music the next day?
3. How did Saul remove David from his sight? Why was David accepted by the people?
4. Why was David reluctant to marry the king's daughter?
5. What dowry did Saul suggest to allow David to marry his daughter? How did David exceed the offer?
6. Why did Saul become more afraid of David? What part did David play in making Saul afraid?

Lesson 9: Jonathan and Michal Help David

Text: 1 Samuel 19:1 – 19:24

Lesson Focus:

Saul finally becomes open about his desire to kill David. Jonathan hears of the plan and with David's wife, Michal, provides for his escape.

Questions

1. What does Jonathan discuss with Saul? How does Saul respond?
2. What battle took place after this discussion? What was the result?
3. What did Saul do while David was playing music? What did Saul do next?
4. How did Michal help David? How strong is the anger of Saul against Michal?
5. Where did David hide?
6. What happened to the messengers sent to take David from Samuel? How many times did this happen?
7. What happened when Saul went to take David personally?

Lesson 10: Jonathan Warns David

Text: 1 Samuel 20:1 – 20:42

Lesson Focus:

It becomes clear that Saul has decided that he will not rest until he has killed David. Jonathan tries to talk with his father on David's behalf but Saul will not relent. David will no longer be in the court of Saul but will live as a fugitive in the wilderness, running from Saul and his army.

Questions

1. Why does David think that Saul will not be honest with Jonathan about his intentions with David?
2. What do David and Jonathan plan to determine Saul's attitude towards David?
3. What would be the sign if Saul's attitude was favorable? What would be the sign if Saul answered Jonathan roughly?
4. What did Saul think of David's absence the first day? How did he respond to the reason that Jonathan gave for his extended absence?
5. What does Saul know about David's future? What did he try to do to Jonathan?
6. What covenant did Jonathan and David make?

Lesson 11: David Flees from Saul

Text: 1 Samuel 21:1 – 22:23

Lesson Focus:

David runs from Saul and seeks refuge with the priests at Nob and even tries to find refuge among the Philistines.

Questions

1. Why is Ahimelech suspicious? How does David respond?
2. What bread was given to David's men?
3. Where did David flee next? Why is this unusual?
4. Why did David act like a madman before Achish? What was the result?
5. What people joined David? Why?
6. What happened to the priests at Nob? Who escaped?

Lesson 12: David Spares Saul's Life

Text: 1 Samuel 23:1 – 24:22

Lesson Focus:

Although Saul has unfairly targeted David as an enemy and has tried to kill him on several occasions, David will not retaliate against Saul, God's anointed king.

Questions

1. What city did David save from the Philistines? Did they show loyalty to David? Explain.
2. Where did David flee? How did the people of the region react?
3. What did David do to Saul instead of killing him?
4. What point did David make with the piece of the robe?
5. What was the reaction of Saul to David's words?
6. Where did Saul go at the end of chapter 24? Where did David go?

Lesson 13: Review

Text: 1 Samuel 9:1 – 24:22

Lesson Focus:

Review the story of Saul and David.

Questions

1. Is Saul humble or arrogant at the beginning of his reign? Explain how it changes.
2. What things does Saul do to displease God? What is the punishment?
3. Why doesn't David immediately assume the throne?
4. What things do we see in this part of the study that show us how David is a man after God's own heart?
5. Why wouldn't David kill Saul?

Lesson 14: David, Abigail, and Nabal

Text: 1 Samuel 25:1 – 25:44

Lesson Focus:

While David is on the run from Saul, he encounters a foolish man with a wise wife who saves her husband from David's wrath and, upon her husband's death, becomes David's wife.

Questions

1. Who died during this period?
2. In what region did Nabal live? What had David been doing there?
3. What did David ask of Nabal? What was Nabal's response?
4. What wise thing did Abigail do?
5. Is David justified in his desire to kill Nabal and the males for not feeding his men?
6. How did Nabal react when he heard what Abigail had done for David?
7. What happened to Abigail? What happened to Michal?

Lesson 15: David Spares Saul a Second Time

Text: 1 Samuel 26:1 – 26:25

Lesson Focus:

Again, Saul tries to hunt down David and kill him. Again, David spares Saul and shows that he is more honorable than Saul.

Questions

1. When David went to Saul's camp, what situation did he find?
2. Why would David not strike Saul? Whose job was it to kill Saul?
3. What did David do to show that he had been there?
4. Who does David address? What does he tell him?
5. How does Saul respond to David?
6. How did David compare Saul's hunt for him?
7. Based on David's response here and in lesson 12, where is some of the jealousy of David apparently coming from?

Lesson 16: David Among the Philistines

Text: 1 Samuel 27:1 – 28:2; 29:1-11

Lesson Focus:

David realizes that Saul will come after him again and so flees to the enemy of Israel for security.

Questions

Does it appear that David is acting out of faith in going to the Philistines? Explain.

What happened the first time that David went to Achish (1 Samuel 21)?

How long did David stay in Philistia? What city was he given?

Who did David fight against? Find their territory on a map.

What impression did David leave with King Achish regarding the battle with Israel?
Did David lie?

Why was David not able to fight with the Philistines? How did David react?

Lesson 17: Saul and the Witch of Endor

Text: 1 Samuel 28:1 – 28:25

Lesson Focus:

The Philistines gather an army to fight against Israel. Saul becomes desperate because God would not speak to him anymore. In his despair and warped thinking, he consults a witch to call Samuel the prophet in hopes of receiving a message from God.

Questions

1. What was the law of God regarding spiritualists? (see Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:9-11)

2. When do you think Saul drove the spiritualists and mediums from the land?

3. Who does Saul ask the witch to contact from the dead?

4. How does the witch react when Samuel appears? What do you think that indicates?

5. What is the message of Samuel to Saul?

6. How did Saul react to the message of Samuel?

Lesson 18: David and the Amelekites

Text: 1 Samuel 30:1 – 30:31

Lesson Focus:

After David is sent away by King Achish, he discovers that Ziklag has been attacked and plundered by the Amelekites. He and his men pursue them and defeat them.

Questions

1. Why were David's men angry at him? What did they want to do to him?
2. Who did David consult? What was the message?
3. Why did David's army divide?
4. Who helped David find the Amelekites? What were the Amelekites doing?
5. What was the result of the battle?
6. What conflict came up among David's men? What was David's decision?
7. What did David do with some of the spoils? Why do you think he did this?

Lesson 19: The Death of Saul

Text: 1 Samuel 31:1 – 31:13

Lesson Focus:

During a terrible battle with the Philistines, Saul and three of his sons, including Jonathan, die. The Philistines treat their bodies with contempt but valiant men of Jabesh Gilead treat them with honor.

Questions

1. Where were the Israelites defeated? What sons of Saul died in the battle?
2. How did Saul die? How did his armor bearer die?
3. Why did Saul want to be killed? Why do you think the armor bearer was afraid?
4. What happened to Israel because of the battle?
5. What did the Philistines do to the body and armor of Saul and his sons?
6. What did the men of Jabesh Gilead do? What was the connection between Jabesh Gilead and Saul?

Lesson 20: David is King in Hebron

Text: 2 Samuel 1:1 – 2:7,11

Lesson Focus:

After Saul's death David is made king of Israel in Hebron. David shows great sorrow over Saul's death and sings a song of tribute to him.

Questions

Who came to David at Ziklag? What was his news?

1. What was the man's story of Saul's death? What did the man have with him?
2. What was the nationality of the man? What did David do to him? Why?
3. What does the phrase "Tell it not in Gath" mean?
4. Do you think David was genuine in his adoration for Saul or was he trying to be a good politician?
5. Why did David go up to Hebron? What happened there?
6. What message did David send to the men of Jabesh Gilead?

Lesson 21: Ishbosheth and Abner

Text: 2 Samuel 2:8 – 3:21

Lesson Focus:

David does not immediately assume control of all Israel. Abner proclaims Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, king of Israel and succeeds in gaining some control of Israel. War breaks out between Judah and Israel but eventually Abner joins forces with David.

Questions

1. What was the tribal division of Israel at this time? How long did Ishbosheth and David rule?
2. What contest did Abner and Joab have? Who won?
3. Who was Asahel? What happened to him?
4. What ended the battle?
5. What problem arose between Ishbosheth and Abner?
6. What agreement did David and Abner make? What did David want as part of the covenant?

Lesson 22: David Reigns over all Israel

Text: 2 Samuel 3:22 – 5:25

Lesson Focus:

After a bloody start, David is able to establish his throne over all Israel and turn his attention to fighting the enemies around them.

Questions

1. What did Joab think Abner came to do? What happened to Abner?
2. Why did David lament Abner? What curse does David place on Joab's house?
3. Who killed Ishbosheth? How did David reward them?
4. Who was Mephibosheth? What happened to him?
5. Who came to David at Hebron? Why?
6. What was the prize for taking Jerusalem? Who lived there?
7. What other people did David defeat in this lesson?

Lesson 23: The Ark of the Covenant is Moved

Text: 2 Samuel 6:1 – 6:23

Lesson Focus:

As the kingdom of David is being established, David also seeks to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. However, they do not do all that God commands the first time and are punished.

Questions

1. How long had it been since Israel had inquired of God at the ark? (see 1 Chron. 13)
2. Why was the ark in Baale Judah?
3. How did they try to transport it the first time?
4. What happened to Uzzah? Why?
5. Where was the ark moved temporarily? What happened to Obed-Edom's house?
6. How was the second transport of the ark different (see 1 Chron 15)? Why?
7. How did David welcome the ark to Jerusalem?

Lesson 24: Preparations for the Temple

Text: 2 Samuel 7:1 – 7:29

Lesson Focus:

David, out of his love for God, wants to build God a great temple. He is not permitted to do so but is allowed to make preparations for the temple. God blesses David and his kingdom and David praises God.

Questions

1. What is the response of Nathan to David's desire to build the temple?
2. How does God respond to Nathan? Why?
3. What promise does God make to David regarding his descendants?
4. What will be different about the punishment on David's son and that of Saul?
5. How do we see the humility of David in his prayer?
6. Read the prayer of David a few times and meditate on the great praise that he gives to God. This is truly a great example of an acceptable prayer.

Lesson 25: David's Victories

Text: 2 Samuel 8:1 – 9:13

Lesson Focus:

God continues to give David success against his enemies. David remembered his oath to Jonathan and sought to find a way to show kindness to the house of Saul for the sake of his friend.

Questions

1. What happened to the Moabites?
2. What other enemies did David defeat?
3. Show on a map where David had neutralized his enemies.
4. Who were David's officials?
5. What was the disability of Mephibosheth? How did it happen?
6. What kindness did David show to Mephibosheth?
7. What were the servants of Mephibosheth to do with the land?

Lesson 26: Review

Text: 1 Samuel 25:1 – 2 Samuel 9:13

Lesson Focus:

Review of the story of Saul and David.

Questions

1. How does David's treatment of Saul and his actions after Saul's death demonstrate the principle of doing things in God's time?
2. What contrasts do we see between Saul and David as kings?
3. What good political moves does David make as he becomes king?
4. Why does God not let David build the temple? What can he do for the temple?