

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

RLJ-1687

JOHN S. TORELL

JANUARY 20, 2019

PART 20: THE DEMISE OF KING SAUL

SAMUEL'S WARNING

Samuel asked the people if he had ever wronged them. **1 Samuel 12:1-5**

Samuel told the people and King Saul that if they did not walk in the way of the Lord, God would fight against them and bring judgment upon the nation. **verses 13-25**

NO FAITH IN GOD

Saul faced a huge Philistine army two years into his kingship and the great victory over the Ammonites. Jonathan had attacked and wiped out the Philistine garrison in Geba. This did not sit well with the Philistines and they assembled an army of 30,000 chariots (equivalent to tanks), 6,000 horsemen and a massive number of infantry. **1 Samuel 13:5**

Saul's standing army consisted of two army groups, the larger one of 2,000 men which he personally commanded, and a smaller group of 1,000 men commanded by Jonathan. **1 Samuel 13:1-2**

The men of Israel had no swords or spears. **1 Samuel 13:22**

Saul drafted the men of Israel and they gathered in Gilgal. **verses 3-4**

The conscripted soldiers were gripped with fear once they realized the size and might of the Philistine army. **verses 6-7**

Saul had called for Samuel to come at a certain day and time, but when Samuel did not show up, Saul panicked and decided to personally lead the people in a sacrifice to God even though he was not a priest. **verses 8-9**

It is interesting to note that Samuel showed up the moment Saul tried to move God's hand on his own and Samuel subsequently informed him that rebellion is like witchcraft and Saul had lost the kingdom. **verses 10-14**

After Samuel's departure, Saul counted his soldiers and found that he only had about 600 soldiers who still remained. **verses 15-16**

SAUL IS REMOVED AS KING

Saul was still the legal king of Israel, but what kind of effort could he mount with just 600 fighting men? The Philistines realized that they had scared the men of Israel without a fight and they sent out three raiding parties to plunder and destroy. **verses 17-18**

DAVID WAS NOT READY

God knew that David was not ready to become the king and therefore He used Saul as a caretaker for a season. All the fight had gone out from Saul so God moved upon Jonathan and his armor bearer to attack a Philistine garrison. **1 Samuel 14:1-5**



This was a long shot but God instilled faith in Jonathan to believe that God could do something supernatural. Jonathan and his armor bearer believed that if they would do the possible, God would help them do the impossible. **verses 6-10**

GOD ACTIVATES HOLY ANGELS

Against all the odds, Jonathan and his armor bearer were able to climb up the steep terrain, but as soon as they reached the top where the Philistines were, they killed the whole group in a fierce fight. **verses 11-14**

God's holy angels moved in and created a shaking of the earth that created such fear and confusion among the Philistines that they began killing each other. **verses 15-16; Hebrews 11:6**

Once Saul realized that something was amiss among the enemy army of 30,000 chariots, 6,000 cavalry and the large number of foot soldiers, he suddenly became bold and led an attack against the Philistines.

There were thousands of Israeli turncoats who had joined the Philistine army, and when they realized that God was destroying the Philistine army, they switched sides and joined the cowards who had hid in caves, holes and other hiding places.

Saul was able to arm his men with swords and spears from this victory. **verses 17-23**

SAUL DID NOT TRUST GOD

Saul felt that he had to take control at this point and he issued an order that no soldier would be allowed eat that day. They were to pursue and kill the enemy until dark. **verses 24-31**

Saul's men were exhausted at the end of the day and they began to slaughter and roast meat over fires without letting the animals properly bleed out. **verses 32-35**

Saul did not know that Jonathan had eaten honey during the day and there was a confrontation between father and son. Even though God had clearly used Jonathan as an instrument to against the Philistines, Saul's ego demanded that his son be executed for disobeying an order that he knew nothing about. But the people had enough of Saul and rose up to defend Jonathan.

A very much deflated Saul returned to his own place and refused to pursue the Philistines and they too returned to their homes. Saul could have defeated the Philistines once and for all, but he went home as a petulant child because he had been rebuked and overruled by the people. This shows that Saul was plagued by an arrested development spirit. **verses 36-46**

King Saul later established Israel by clearing out the forces of Moab, Ammon, Edom, the kings of Zobah and then driving back the Philistines from Israeli territory.

SAUL'S FINAL REBELLION

God still needed Saul as a caretaker of the kingdom of Israel and Samuel came and told Saul that he needed to repent and start obeying God. **1 Samuel 15:1-2**

The Lord told Saul to attack the nation of Amalek, destroy its people and their livestock and kill everything with the breath of life. **verse 3**

Saul agreed to perform the operation and assembled a fighting force of 200,000 soldiers from the eleven tribes along with 10,000 men from the tribe of Judah. **verse 4**

Saul moved his army to the land of the Amalekites and he warned the Kenites who lived in the area of the impending doom because of their previous kindness. **verse 6**

Saul attacked and defeated the Amalekites but he failed to carry out God's order when he spared King Agag and kept the best of the livestock. **verses 7-9**

God told Samuel that He was done with Saul. **verses 10-11**

When Saul was confronted by Samuel, he blamed it on the people, then he said that the animals were kept as a sacrifice to the Lord. **verses 12-15**

When Samuel confronted Saul, he doubled down and shifted all the blame to the people. Then Saul repeated the lie that the animals were to be sacrificed to Samuel's God, indicating that God was not God to Saul. **verses 16-21**

Samuel told Saul that rebellion is the same as witchcraft and that God had rejected him as the king of Israel. **verses 22-23**

Saul realized that he was in trouble and finally told the truth that he feared the people more than God. **verses 24-25**

When Samuel told Saul that he would not return with him, Saul became desperate and grabbed a skirt of Samuel's mantle and ripped it. Samuel rebuked him again. **verses 26-29**

Saul was remorseful and asked Samuel to honor him before the people. Samuel granted this request because it was necessary for Saul remain king since David was not ready to become the next king of Israel. **verses 30-31**

Samuel demanded King Agag brought before him, who made it a point not to offend the aging prophet; nevertheless, this did not spare his life as Samuel took a sword and brutally cut the Amalekite king into pieces. **verses 32-33**

Saul and Samuel went their separate ways and this was the last time they saw each other. **verses 34-35**

A TRANSFER IN THE SPIRIT WORLD

Samuel had a hard time not grieving for Saul. **1 Samuel 16:1**

Even though Samuel had twice told Saul that God had rejected him as king over Israel, it was a totally different situation for Samuel to anoint Saul's replacement. **verse 2**

Samuel had traveled to different places throughout Israel, erected an altar and worshiped the Lord with the local people. God told the prophet to treat this new project like a trip to worship the Lord at a local place with an invitation to the people who lived there to join him. **verses 2-12**

Once Samuel anointed David to be the next king, the Holy Spirit came upon David and he was a changed man. **verse 13**

At the same time, the Holy Spirit departed from Saul and He was replaced by an evil spirit. **verses 14**

This created a situation that brought David to Saul, which was used by God to commence David's education on how to run a kingdom. **verses 15-23**

SAUL'S FINAL MEETING WITH SAMUEL

Saul turned into a bitter man who was plagued by evil spirits toward the end of his life.

He became ruthless in his efforts to protect his bloodline and legacy and without hesitation ordered the death of Ahimelech and all the people in the city. **1 Samuel 22:11-19**

He had been hunting David for many years, but God protected David and all of Saul's attempts to kill David failed.

Samuel was dead and Saul was no longer hearing from God. He became desperate and decided to use a witch to talk to the dead prophet. **1 Samuel 28:4-11**

The woman from Endor was used to her familiar spirit and she panicked when she saw the soul of Samuel come up. **verse 12-14**

Samuel delivered a final message to Saul that ended with an ominous prophecy that Saul would be dead the next day. **verses 15-19**

Saul fell to the ground when heard the message. **verse 20**

SAUL'S LAST BATTLE

There was no repentance left for Saul and he went to his last battle against the Philistines like an ox to the slaughter. The Lord had departed from Saul and his army and the Philistines ground them down and Saul's sons died in the battle. Saul was wounded and his last act on earth was to commit suicide because he did not want to fall into the hands of the Philistines. **1 Samuel 31:1-10**

SUMMARY

Saul started out well in life. He had a great father that was known as a mighty man of power. He grew up to be a tall, handsome man with a bright future.

He was selected by God, who anointed and gave him power to rule and lead men into war. He became the first king of Israel and was very successful during his first few years.

But then he lost it all because of disobedience and became a people pleaser in order to protect his kingdom. He did not understand that rebellion is just like the sin of witchcraft.

This is what Jesus told his followers: "If you love me, keep my commandments." **John 14:15**

Will you learn from the mistakes of Saul and end your life victoriously or join him in rebellion and end your life in defeat? The choice is yours!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?