

FINAL STUDY NOTES – *1 Samuel Chapters 14:24 –16:23* 8/18-19/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221

NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

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OPENING PRAYER

1 SAMUEL – Chapter 14 – Saul’s Rash Oath (vs. 24-46); Saul’s Continuing Wars – (vs 47-52); Chapter 15 - Saul Spares King Agag – (vs. 1-9); Saul Rejected as King – (vs. 10-35); Chapter 16 - David Anointed King - (vs. 1-13); A Distressing Spirit Troubles Saul – (vs. 14-23).

Saul's Rash Vow

1Sa 14:24 And the men of Israel were distressed that day, for Saul had placed the people under oath, saying, "Cursed is the man who eats any food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies." So none of the people tasted food.

- Now this was a foolish, tragic vow, a fast, when the **LORD** was giving Israel a great victory! When Saul sees that the battle is going in Israel’s favor, he announces the curse. Notice the pride: “Until **I**, Saul, is avenged of my enemies;” rather than - the **LORD** has defeated the enemies!

1Sa 14:25-26 Now all the people of the land came to a forest; and there was honey on the ground. [26] And when the people had come into the woods, there was the honey, dripping (a provision from God); but no one put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath.

- **The curse that Saul had made.** At a time when God was providing a victory, the enemy was in retreat, the Israeli army needed energy from food to exploit the rout, Saul put them in a fast, insisting they continue to fight, not for God, but for him! How wrong!

1Sa 14:27 But Jonathan had not heard his father charge the people with the oath; therefore he stretched out the end of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his countenance brightened.

- **That means that he was refreshed.** They had been fighting all day and the blood sugar was getting low. They were getting tired and weary from chasing and fighting the Philistines. When Jonathan got hold of some of that honey, that quick charge into the bloodstream refreshed him. He was ready to go again.

1Sa 14:28-30 Then one of the people said, "Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, 'Cursed is the man who eats food this day.'" And the people were faint. [29] But Jonathan said, "My father has troubled the land. Look now, how my countenance has brightened because I tasted a little of this honey. [30] How much better if the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found! For now would there not have been a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?"

- **This was a foolish thing.** It would have been much better if the men had been able to eat freely of the spoil. They would have had the strength to destroy many more Philistines if it had not been for that foolish vow of Saul!

1Sa 14:31-32 Now they had driven back the Philistines that day from Michmash to Ajalon. So the people were very faint (exhausted). [32] And the people rushed on the spoil, and took sheep, oxen, and calves, and slaughtered them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood.

- They didn't bother to drain the blood fully, which God required. (Deu 12:23-25) They just started roasting the flesh and eating it. Saul's foolish vow caused the people to sin!

1Sa 14:33-34 Then they told Saul, saying, "Look, the people are sinning against the LORD by eating with the blood! So he said, "You have dealt treacherously (Saul blamed the people for his own sin); roll a large stone to me this day." [34] Then Saul said, "Disperse yourselves among the people, and say to them, 'Bring me here every man's ox and every man's sheep, slaughter them here, and eat; and do not sin against the LORD by eating with the blood.' " So every one of the people brought his ox with him that night, and slaughtered it there.

1Sa 14:35-36 Then Saul built an altar to the LORD. This was the first altar that he built to the LORD. [36] Now Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and plunder them until the morning light; and let us not leave a man of them." And they said, "Do whatever seems good to you." Then the priest said, "Let us draw near to God here."

- In their extreme famished condition, they did not drain the blood, (against Lev 17:10-14), which was even worse than breaking a vow! Saul's tragic oath was causing the people to sin!

1Sa 14:37-38 So Saul asked counsel of God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will You deliver them into the hand of Israel?" But He did not answer him that day. [38] And Saul said, "Come over here, all you chiefs of the people, and know and see (find out) what this sin was today.

- Let us find out what God has to say about this!
 - **God is beginning to draw the curtain on Saul.** God wasn't answering. Something must have been wrong.
- 1Sa 14:39** For as the LORD lives, who saves Israel, though it be (guilt lies on) in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But not a man among all the people answered him.



- Saul was so sure he was right; he adds this foolish, terrible vow to his previous foolish vow!
- Nobody would tell what Jonathan had done.

1Sa 14:40-45 Then he said to all Israel, "You be on one side, and my son Jonathan and I will be on the other side." And the people said to Saul, "Do what seems good to you." [41] Therefore Saul said to the LORD God of Israel, "Give a perfect lot (by the Thummim to show the innocent)." So Saul and Jonathan were taken, but the people escaped. [42] And Saul said, "Cast lots between my son Jonathan and me." So Jonathan was taken. [43] Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." And Jonathan told him, and said, "I only tasted a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand. So now I must die!" [44] Saul answered, "God do so and more also; for you shall surely die, Jonathan." [45] But the people said to Saul, "Shall Jonathan die, who has accomplished this great deliverance in Israel? Certainly not! As the LORD lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.

- Again, this shows the rashness and folly of Saul, who is ready to put his son to death for this infraction because Jonathan had violated, not God's Word, but Saul's word. Though he didn't even know what his father had said, yet Saul was going to kill Jonathan, who collaborating with God, had brought the victory to Israel! Thank God the people had enough sense to stand up against Saul at this point. They rescued Jonathan from Saul.

1Sa 14:46-51 Then Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went (withdrew) to their own place. (Implying the victory would have been greater, had it not been for Saul's foolish oath!)

Saul Fights Israel's Enemies – All about Saul's shallow strength, not God's strength and provision!

[47] So Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he harassed them. [48] And he gathered an army and attacked the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them. [49] The sons of Saul were Jonathan, Jishui, and Malchishua. And the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal. [50] The name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the commander of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. [51] Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

- Abner is the chief general, who was also Saul's cousin.

1Sa 14:52 Now there was fierce war with the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself.

- He put them into his army and royal guard. We are seeing Saul's profile more clearly! He was a man who had all kinds of potential! The possibilities for his success were tremendous. His apparent early humbleness began to change. As power was vested to him, it went to his head. We see manifestations of his foolishness, coming from his pride and insecurity! The foolishness of wanting to carry out his vow led even to his intention of the destruction of his own son!

Saul's Disobedience -- The LORD Rejects Saul – Saul Spares King Agag, a type of the flesh!

1Sa 15:1 Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed (listen to!) the voice of the words of the LORD."

- This is a second opportunity for Saul to follow the commands of the LORD. In the thirteenth chapter Saul had failed when he had gathered with the people at Gilgal and Samuel did not show up until the end of the seventh day, at the appointed time. Saul intruded into the office of the priesthood, offering up a sacrifice, which was prohibited for kings to do; only priests! Samuel rebuked him, telling him that he had the voice of the LORD: "He had done foolishly."
- Now Samuel comes with a command from God. Heed the voice of the words of the LORD! Some things bear constant repeating. (2Pe 1:12-13) For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. [13] Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you.
- One of the things that we need to be constantly reminded of, is to listen when God gives us a warning. God does not warn us needlessly! God is warning Saul to make sure that he obeys! Heed the words of the LORD!

- **The LORD has always been faithful in His reminding and warning me of sin? How faithful have I been in responding to His warnings? Is there a history of my not being faithful and having fallen in the very area of His warning?**

1Sa 15:2 Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

- As they were coming into the area of Rephidim, the Amalekites attacked them in the rear ranks where the older, feeble people were, who couldn't keep pace. In that place of weakness, Amalek viciously attacked!
- **Later in (Deu 25:17-19) "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, [18] how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. [19] Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget. I want you to go down and wipe out Amalek. Wipe out his memory from under heaven!**

1Sa 15:3-5 Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all (reckon the "old man" to be dead!) that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. [4] So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. [5] And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

- God gave this command to completely wipe them out, because the Amalekites were a very vicious, cruel people. They engaged in extremely vile practices of the worship of their god, offering up their children as sacrifices to their god. In time they would have destroyed themselves. They were infected with a deadly contagious disease that could corrupt mankind. Thus, God is ordering their extermination. He is using Saul and the children of Israel as His instrument in bringing judgment. The time has come for God's judgment to come upon the Amalekites. God is perfectly justified because He did it.

1Sa 15:6-11 Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. [7] And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. [8] He also took Agag 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 unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

- Saul is completely disobedient in sparing Agag, and not destroying all the sheep, oxen, and the lambs! Following the example of their king in sparing Agag, the people did not destroy the best of the livestock and all! They were profiting from God's judgment, something that we should never do as well!
- **But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep. Their destruction of the despised and worthless, likely was not being obedient to God, but was to save trouble. They had the desire to keep the best for themselves, not bothering with the worst.**

Saul Rejected as King

1Sa 15:10 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, [11] "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

- There are several problems here. It is obvious that Saul did not complete the command of God in utterly destroying the Amalekites. Not only did he save Agag the king, but he allowed others to remain alive.
- God determines Saul's rejection, and tells Samuel, "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.
- **I greatly regret. Regret in God is not** a change of His mind, as it is in us, but a change of His method or dispensation. He does not alter His will, but wills an alteration. The change was in Saul: *He has turned back from following Me*, based on Saul's, disobedience and his covetousness, thereby making God his enemy. God regretted that He had given Saul the kingdom and the honor and power that belonged to it, but He never regretted that He had given man wisdom, grace, His fear and love! **(Rom 11:29) For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

- **And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night! Notice the amazing, loving reaction of Samuel in his love of Saul! Samuel was greatly grieved and yet he cried unto the LORD all night! How different would my reaction have been to that of Samuel!**

1Sa 15:12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

- **Indeed, he set up a monument for himself.** Saul was taking credit for the victory, establishing a monument to himself! This foolish act of pride, another evidence of his spiritual weakness, was Saul's expression of worshipping himself rather than true worship of God.
- **Saul wasn't grieved over his sin, but was quite pleased with himself!** There was no shame or guilt in Saul, even though he directly disobeyed the LORD! Saul's heart was so spiritually dead he could directly disobey God and still set up a monument for himself on the occasion.

1Sa 15:13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

- **Blessed are you of the LORD!** Saul couches it with spiritual terms. Because a person uses spiritual jargon does not mean that the person is right with the LORD. Often times they use it to cover themselves.
- **I have performed the commandment of the LORD.** Saul can only come to Samuel with boasting of his obedience because of his pride. Saul is self-deceived. Pride and self-centeredness always lead to self-deception.

1Sa 15:14-15 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 the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

- **Here, Saul is in disobedience to the commandment of God,** lying about himself. Then, when faced with the evidence, he uses a spiritual excuse, the most blasphemous of all excuses! God does not lead you to do anything that is contrary to His Word or to disobey His commands. Saul is using this flimsy excuse!
- **Note that even in his excuse, Saul revealed the real problem,** which was a poor relationship with God.
- **Saul spoke of God to Samuel:** "to sacrifice to the LORD your God." The LORD was not Saul's God. Saul was Saul's god. In his pride, Saul removed the LORD God from the throne of his heart.

1Sa 15:16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on (tell me)."

- **Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet!"** Samuel has had enough. He will not listen to Saul anymore. The excuse was revealed for what it was, just a lame excuse! Now Saul is told to be quiet, and to listen to the word of the LORD through Samuel.
- **But Saul can't shut up. He shows his proud desire to retain** some control by replying, "Speak on" as if the prophet of God needed Saul's permission. He would speak on, but not because Saul gave him permission. Samuel would speak on because he was the LORD's messenger

1Sa 15:17-20 So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes (now big in his own eyes, but made small in God's eyes), were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?" [18] Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' [19] Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" [20] And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites."

- **Saul had his commands, yet he disobeyed!** Saul first insists that he is innocent. But he is so self-deceived he can say, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD and then immediately describe how he did not obey the voice of the LORD, saying that he brought back Agag king of Amalek.
- **But the people took of the plunder:** After insisting he is innocent, Saul then blamed the people for the sin. It was true that the people took of the plunder. But they did so by following Saul's example of sparing Agag, and with Saul's allowance, because he did nothing to stop or discourage them!
- **Saul was most zealous in commanding his army when it suited him to do so.** Saul was full of fire and zeal when it came to his own will, but certainly not when it came to the will of God. Saul is still persisting, insisting that he did what God told him to do.

1Sa 15:21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

- It was the people's doing and not his! Besides, it was for sacrifice to the LORD, here at Gilgal, where they were now bringing them. Notice how hard it is to convince the children of disobedience of their sin and to strip them of their fig-leaf excuses.

1Sa 15:22 So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great 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."

- **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice!** The important thing to know, all the way through in the Scriptures, is that you can find parallel passages where God is more interested in your obedience than in your making sacrifices to Him. The thing that God is interested in is in your submission to His Lordship and His authority in your life. "To obey is better than sacrifice."
- **David, in (Psa 51:16-17) For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. [17] The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise!**
- **God will be more pleased with your attitude and brokenness towards Him than your offerings and sacrifice.** Do not use them to try and cover your sense of guilt. Too many people have tried to sort of bribe God and buy their way out: "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."
- **Behold, it is better to obey than sacrifice! How clearly does my life reflect that I am living, knowing, and practicing that my obedience to Him and to His word, is better than sacrifice? Is my heart fully surrendered to God, as demonstrated by simple obedience?**

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (divination), And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

- **He had rebelled against the Word of God.** He was stubborn in insisting that he had done the right thing. Rather than repenting and confessing his sin, he continued to maintain his innocence.
- **Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.** Because of his empty religious practice, rebellion, and stubbornness against God, Saul rejected God's word. So, God rightly rejected him as king over Israel.
- **Here Saul personally was rejected...from being king.** Earlier his family line was rejected, now it personal! Yet it would be almost 25 years before there was another king enthroned in Israel. Saul's rejection was final, but it was not immediate. God used almost 25 years to train up David as the right replacement for Saul.

1Sa 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice."

- **Now here is a shallow confession of sin.** His statement begins like a genuine confession but that changes as he continues and says, "because I feared the people and obeyed their voice." Saul refused to admit his sin and instead blamed the people who "made him" do it! I obeyed their voice!

1Sa 15:25-28 Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."

- **Saul should have dealt with the deep issue of his heart of rebellion and stubbornness against God, but instead he thought that a word from Samuel could fix everything.**

1Sa 15:26 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!" (not as a man, door being left open for Saul to repent?)

- **Samuel has nothing more to say about this, other than what the LORD already said through him (1Sam 15:23). There was nothing more to talk about.**

1Sa 15:27 And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.

- **The desperate action of Saul gives us a vivid lesson on how the kingdom was torn away from him.** So God will rip the kingdom from you. Saul's judgment was a settled matter on the day of his disobedience,, including his refusal to repent of this disobedience with the Amalekites

1Sa 15:28 So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you."

- **Samuel used the illustration as it vividly portrayed how God would take the kingdom from Saul as he had just torn Samuel's robe.**

1Sa 15:29 And also the Strength of Israel (the glory of Israel) will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent." God's edict is going to stand! "You are through, Saul, as God is concerned, from being the king."

1Sa 15:30 Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God."

- Saul's desperate plea shows the depths of his pride, being more concerned with his image than his soul.
1Sa 15:31 So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

- Samuel did not lead an immediate rebellion against Saul because God had not raised up Saul's replacement yet and Saul was better than the anarchy that would come with no king.

1Sa 15:32 Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

- Saul's disobedience of God's command to utterly destroy all of Amalek still stood and needed to be resolved by Samuel, even if Saul didn't obey it.

1Sa 15:33 But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

- As your sword... Samuel makes it clear that Agag was not innocent when it came to the atrocities the Amalekites inflicted on Israel. Agag was the wicked and violent leader of a wicked and violent people. God's judgment against him and the Amalekites was just.

- Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal! Without hesitation, Samuel raises a sword, bringing it down upon this proud, violent king, hacking Agag in pieces, doing it all before the LORD.

1Sa 15 34-35 Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. [35] And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

- The LORD regretted. This word is used to describe the fact that God has now rejected Saul.

- Saul did see Samuel once more, in a seance with the witch of Endor.

David Anointed King

1Sa 16:1-2 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn (we need to remember it was God who was the cause of Saul being removed as king) for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." [2] And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"

- Saul was a very temperamental and rash person. Samuel fears the temper of this man!

1Sa 16:3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

- **God is commanding Samuel.** Because of his fear of Saul killing him, if he finds out that he has gone down to anoint another king, God tells him, Go down and offer a sacrifice, taking a heifer with you. If anybody asks, tell them that you are going to offer a sacrifice to the LORD. Then, invite Jesse and his family to come to the sacrifice. Which was truthful, but yet it was couching the real truth.

- **There is a question often asked, "Should I tell the whole truth, when I know that the whole truth will hurt and destroy?"** Sometimes people feel it is necessary to confess their sin even though it does more damage than the sin itself. Why hurt or damage a relationship? Some things, or many things, are sometimes better left unsaid. You can do a lot of damage with your tongue.

- **For I have provided Myself a king among his sons:** Years before this, Israel rejected the LORD as their king and they wanted a human king instead. God gave them a human king (Saul) after their own desire but God was still on the throne, crowning who He pleased as He pleased.

- **You shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.** The first king of Israel was anointed *for the people*, but the "people's choice" failed and disqualified himself. "Now," the LORD said, "It's time for a king *for Me.*"

1Sa 16:4-7 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" [5] And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. [6] So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!'"

- Samuel looked at the oldest son *Eliab* thinking, this man surely looks like a king. This must be the one God will tell me to anoint. That's a good choice, God!"

1Sa 16: 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

- Samuel made the mistake of judging Eliab based on his *appearance*. This was the same mistake Israel made about their first king. Saul looked the part, but he didn't have the heart of a king over God's people that he should have had. It didn't matter how good Eliab looked because God said, "*I have refused him!*"
- *Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart*. God told Samuel, "Your natural inclination is to only judge on outward appearance. But I can judge the heart that you can't see. So, look to Me and do not be so quick to judge a person only on their *outward appearance*." Samuel could seek the LORD and seek God's heart and mind when looking at people. God sees what's in your heart, and that is what is important to Him!
- **For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart! What does the LORD see in my heart? Is there evidence that God sees me as a man after His own heart?**

1Sa 16:8-10 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." [9] Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." [10] Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

- God told Samuel that He had not chosen any of the seven sons of Jesse attending the feast. They were not bad men, but they were not God's choice.
- 1Sa 16:11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."*

- *There remains yet the youngest*. David's character or conduct was not unworthy; he was the youngest! *Keeping the sheep* meant you had time to think. David spent a lot of time looking over the sheep and looking at the glory of God's creation. God built in him a heart to sing about His glory in all creation (*Psalms 19 and Psalm 8* are good examples). David's years of **keeping the sheep** were not waiting time, but training time. David was a great king over Israel because he never lost his shepherd's *heart*.

1Sa 16:12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy (red-haired, fair complexion), with bright eyes, and good-looking (handsome). And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

- David was of fair complexion, which goes with the red hair. That "with bright eyes and good-looking," refers to his eyes. He had beautiful eyes. David was just a good looking person. "*Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!*" Josephus tells us that David was then ten years old. David was the one!
- God described what made David special in (*1Sa 13:14b*) But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be king.

1Sa 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came (powerfully) upon David (1138 x in Bible; Jesus 983, Moses 784) from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

- Imagine David, the beloved, this little kid, comes out! There is this old man with a horn of oil. As David stands before him, he takes and pours his oil over David's head, and God's Spirit comes upon his life. The real anointing happened when the Holy Spirit came upon David.

David in Saul's Service – A Distressing Spirit Troubles Saul

1Sa 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

- Here is another difficult problem, *a distressing spirit from the LORD*. Remember (*Job 1:10a*) Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? God puts a wall of protection about His people. It could be that God removed that wall of protection over Saul, giving the opportunity for the evil spirit to attack, manifesting himself in uncontrollable temper tantrums.
- Or, in another sense, Satan is serving the purposes of God under regulated conditions. God uses him as He deals with our lives. God allows him to test us in order that we might see the truth about ourselves. God is ruler over the whole universe! He also rules over Satan. Satan can only go as far as God allows and do only what God allows him to do. In this way, he does serve the purposes of God.

1Sa 16:15-18 And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing (evil, harmful) spirit from God is troubling you. [16] Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well." [17] So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." [18] Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

- What wonderful qualifications of David! He was a skillful player of the harp; a valiant person; a man of war though he was still a child. David was prudent in matters. The LORD was with him!

1Sa 16:19-21 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." [20] And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. [21] So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.

- The little boy, brought before the king had a tremendous position. Surely David was awed by the whole thing, and loved Saul! David had a love and respect for Saul that was really commendable; though Saul sought to kill him.

1Sa 16:22-23 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." [23] And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

- So begins this relationship between David and Saul, which will rapidly deteriorate.
- (1Sa 13:14b) *The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart! David is the one!*
- Am I, are you "a man after His own heart?" How does He see you? Is my heart near to the heart of God?

SUMMARY

- ***The LORD has always been faithful in His reminding and warning me of sin? How faithful have I been in responding to His warnings? Is there a history of my not being faithful and having fallen in the very area of His warning? (1Sa 15:1)***
- ***And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night! Notice the amazing loving reaction of Samuel in his love of Saul! Samuel was greatly grieved and yet he cried unto the LORD all night! How different would my reaction have been be to that of Samuel! (1Sa 15:11)***
- ***Behold, it is better to obey than sacrifice! How clearly does my life reflect that I am living, knowing, and practicing that my obedience to Him and to His word, is better than sacrifice? Is my heart fully surrendered to God, as demonstrated by simple obedience? (1Sa 15:22)***
- ***For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart! What does the LORD see in my heart? Is there evidence that God sees me as a man after His own heart? (1Sa 16:7)***

NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD – Cleland McAfee; Tom Fetke (2:06/2:09)

There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God;

A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God.

Refrain: O Jesus, blest Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God;

Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release, Near to the heart of God;

A place where all is joy and peace Near to the heart of God. (Refrain)

Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Samuel, Chapters 17-18!

