

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson 2
October 16

Saul, David & Solomon

Saul is Anointed
and Loses
His Way
1 Samuel 9-15

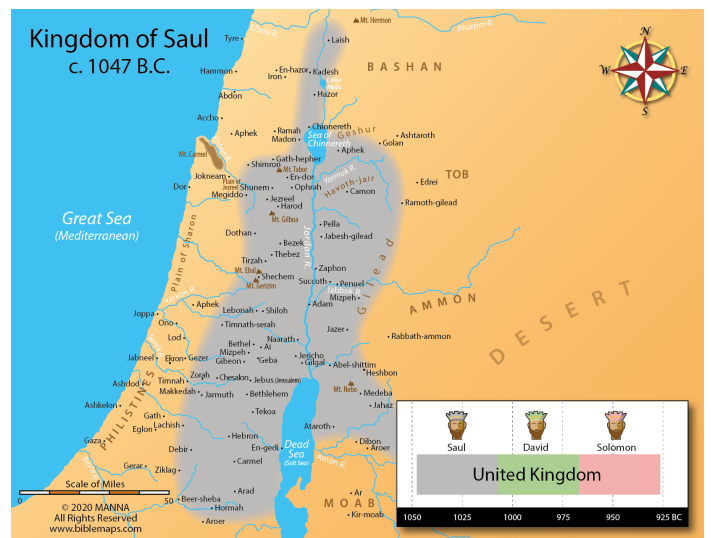
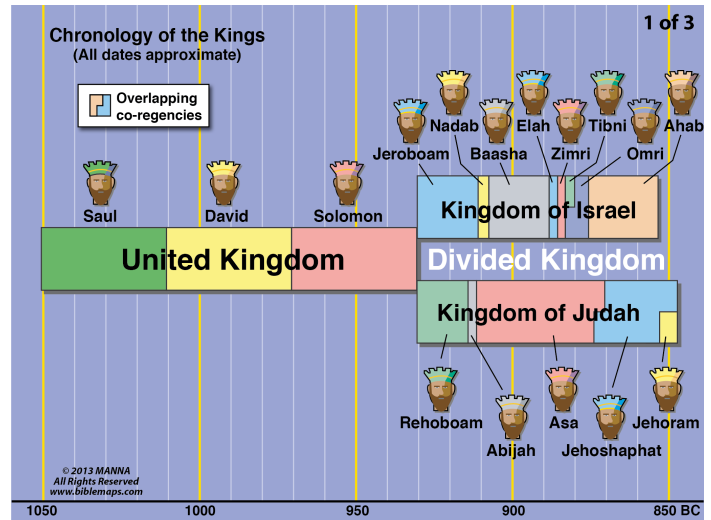
Our first lesson left off with the elders of Israel calling for Samuel to “appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations” (8:5) and Israel’s first human king certainly looked the part.

...a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. (9:2)

In 1 Samuel 10:1, Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul’s head, anointing him to reign over the people of the LORD. But when it was time to present him to the tribes of Israel, Saul hid himself among the baggage. When he was discovered and brought before the people, they shouted, “Long live the king!” (10:21-24).

After a great military victory against the Ammonites (1 Sam 11), and a farewell address from Samuel (1 Sam 12), Saul found himself at war with the Philistines (1 Sam 13) who brought 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude against Israel (13:5). While the men of Israel were hiding (13:6), Saul waited seven days for Samuel. As he saw the people scattering from him, Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings” (13:8-9), but Israel’s king didn’t have the authority to do the God-appointed work of a priest. When Samuel arrived, he rebuked Saul and foretold that the LORD had sought out “a man after his own heart” that would rule in Israel after Saul (13:13-14).

1 Samuel 14 details Saul fighting against enemies on every side, but in 1 Samuel 15, he got himself in trouble again by failing to obey God’s instructions to completely destroy the Amalekites. “To obey is better than sacrifice” (15:22-23). It was an important lesson Saul still needed to learn. Israel’s very first king lost his way. Let’s talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- The children of Israel wanted a human king so that they could “be like all the nations” (8:19) and Saul definitely looked like an impressive king (9:1-2). But what valuable lesson are we being taught about the way someone looks on the outside versus the sort of heart they have?
- In 1 Samuel 10:1, we read about Saul being “anointed” by Samuel. In fact, we read about a variety of people being “anointed” throughout the Old Testament. What did it mean to be “anointed”? What sort of people were “anointed”? As they began to serve as “anointed ones,” what did they always need to remember?
- As you look at Samuel’s farewell address in 1 Samuel 12, what stands out to you? What fundamental lessons did the children of Israel need to remember and apply?
- In 1 Samuel 13, why did Saul “force” himself to offer the burnt offering? And why would Samuel say in response, “You have done foolishly” (13:13)?
- In 1 Samuel 13:14, Samuel is used by the LORD to reveal something about the future. Who is he talking about?
- 1 Samuel 14 not only describes Saul fighting against enemies on every side, it gives us several more glimpses into his thinking and heart. What stands out to you about Saul from this chapter?
- The Amalekites had attacked Israel at Rephidim (Exo 17:8-16; Deut 25:17-19) and joined other groups in fighting against Israel (Num 14:41-45; Judg 3:13; 6:3; 10:12). In 1 Samuel 15, the LORD called on Saul to utterly destroy them and all that they had, but according to 15:7-9, what did Saul do? How did Samuel respond in 15:17-23? What value principles had Saul neglected to live by?
- As you watch Saul losing his way, what do we need to understand and apply, even today?