

Remnant Life Church

June 12, 2022

A Tale of Two Kings

Pt 1

I Samuel 10:1-7

We are going to start a series this morning that will focus on the lives of two men

- These were not just any men
- They were royalty
- The first royalty of Israel
- And their lives are joined not only by what they did but how their relationship began and progressed over a period of many years
- One of them lost his way and never realized what could have been if he had obeyed God
- The other was not perfect, but God established, through his lineage, the family line that would lead to the birth of a Savior

We begin this morning with a little bit of OT history regarding the nation of Israel

- Having left Egypt and settling in Canaan the Israelites were ruled by the law of God as given to Moses by God on Mt. Sinai
- For 400 or so years, which was nearly the same amount of time they were in captivity, this is how they lived and how God intended for them to live
- Following the death of Joshua, the people came through the time of the judges when God used very specific people to act as His emissary and make decisions for the people based on God's leading
 - Samson was the last of the judges and following his death the line of judges was ended
 - In their place were two men who were the people's connection to God
 - The first was Eli
 - He was a priest, but also acted as a judge
 - The second was Samuel
 - He was both a prophet and a judge for the people
 - The problem with the people during that time is spelled out in the final verse of the book of Judges
 - **Judges 21:25** says, *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.*
 - IOW, the people were ignoring God's standards for them and did what they thought was right
 - How similar is that to what we are living in today?
 - The problem with that is, as Solomon would write later in **Proverbs 14:12** and **16:25**, *There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death*
 - Meaning human thoughts and opinions are a poor judgment of what is right
 - And so when Samuel became very old and his two sons, who should have taken their father's place were shown to be corrupt, the people told Samuel that they wanted a king like the nations around them.

- Samuel warned the people what that would mean for them
- The king would determine their lives and fortunes rather than a just and loving God
- When Samuel went to God, He told Samuel to give the people what they wanted because they were not rejecting the prophet, they were rejecting their God (I Sam 8:7)

READ – I Samuel 10:1-7 (Rod Booth)

So we now see the background for the emergence of Saul who would become the first king of God's people

- The desire for a king was because the people were feeling threatened and insecure
- There were hostile forces on all sides and not only was the prophet of God getting older, but his sons were not proving themselves to be able to step in
 - Samuel's struggles with his sons are nearly identical to the one Eli, the prophet who Samuel replaced, had with his
 - When there is a void in godly leadership, the plans of God are quickly replaced by the plans of man in desperation
 - That is what happened here

So, God gave the people what they wanted

- The first part of the book of Samuel – which we know as First Samuel – has two purposes
 - The first is to establish the monarchy of Israel – how did the lineage of kings begin?
 - The second is to present the rise of David into the story and how he came to the throne after Saul
- Unfortunately, and I think unfairly, Saul is most often spoken in a negative light
 - But it must be remembered that Saul was chosen by God
 - The problems for Saul arose due in large part to his impatience
 - Two specific instances demonstrate this -
 - The first time was just prior to an important battle with the Philistines
 - Samuel had told Saul to wait 7 days and he would come to offer a sacrifice to God before the battle
 - But when the 7th day came he did not wait for Samuel and offered the burnt fellowship offering to God – something not even he was authorized to do (I Sam 13:8-13)
 - The second was when he attempted to summon the spirit of Samuel through the use of a medium or witch in the town of Endor – again, this was something strictly forbidden by God in his laws to the people (I Sam 28)
 - Stay away from palm-readers, fortune tellers, tarot cards, horoscopes, even Ouija boards
 - They are a direct line to the demonic
 - These events, along with Saul's jealousy of David, and his unwillingness to humble himself before God, was why the kingdom was taken from him
 - After having disobeyed God in Israel's battle against the Amalekites, we read the sad words that would define the kingship of Saul

- *Samuel said to him, I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel. (I Sam 15:26)*

But this sermon series is titled “A Tale of Two Kings”

- We read in **I Samuel 31** that Saul and his 3 sons were killed by the Philistines on Mount Gilboa, and it was the beginning of the time for David, a man after God’s own heart, to ascend to the throne
 - Saul stated with his mouth that he was not worthy of the honor of being king
 - But David lived much of his life in the humility of knowing he was unworthy of God’s favor to be king
 - This did not mean David was perfect; far from it
 - But David had an ability that Saul did not, David knew how to repent before God
 - True repentance means not repeating the same sins over and over
 - David was able to do that, Saul could not
 - David penned the deep meaning words of, *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me* in **Psa 51:10**
 - He writes these words after Nathan confronts him with his sin with Bathsheba – something he never did again
- Saul was the king given out of the desires of the people
- David was the king that God desired for the people
 - Had Saul not sinned David would never have been king
 - But it was the providential guidance of God’s hand is seen throughout the entirety of this time-period in Israel’s history

Over the next many weeks, we are going to examine in detail the lives of these two men

- They are forever linked in the history of God’s word
- Saul both hated and loved David
- David could not turn to Saul to help guide him, but his son Jonathan became his best friend and confidant.
- But men showed great strength, and both showed great weakness
- Ultimately, both accomplished the will of God for the nation of Israel with the 82 years of their combined time on the throne
- Saul, Jonathan and his 2 other sons all died in battle, but David and his lineage was spared so that one day a man named Solomon would sit on the throne following the death of David
- And it was Solomon who would build the great temple of God in Jerusalem
- God put all things in place, and it would culminate with the birth of a baby in a manger in Bethlehem
- Jesus Christ, a direct descendent of King David