

LESSON 14 - FROM PROMISE ROAD TO KINGDOM HIGHWAY

1 Samuel 8 - 2 Samuel 6

THEME: *To show the foolishness of letting self rule one's life.*

"Give us a king!" shouted the people, "a king to judge us like the other nations!" With this demand the Israelites rejected the LORD God as their King and chose a man to rule over them. They wanted a king they could see. They were tired of walking by faith and leaning upon the promises of God. Foolish Israelites! 1 Samuel 10:19. They did not understand the sorrow that this request for a man to rule over them would bring.

Do you remember our verse about the way of life and the way of death? We have been seeing many examples of those who chose one way or the other. Today we shall hear about two kings, one who chose the way of death and the other the way of eternal life.

Israel had been in the PROMISED LAND (also called Canaan) about 350 years and there had been many periods of great sin, breaking of the Law, and idolatry. God raised up men as Judges who judged problems in Israel, who fought and delivered the nation from slavery by its enemies who oppressed them from all sides, as we read in the book of Judges. In calling for a man to become king over them, Israel committed the greatest sin of all. 1 Samuel 8.

The first king was chosen named Saul. He was handsome and tall, pleasing to the eyes of the people, but God was not pleased when he looked upon the heart of Saul. We will see how Saul's actions proved what was in his heart.

On your chart you will see there is a turn in the road where PROMISE ROAD becomes KINGDOM HIGHWAY.

After King Saul reigned two years, he led the people against their enemies, the Philistines. 1 Samuel 13:1-14. The Israelites had great fear. Saul wanted to offer a sacrifice to God and call upon Him for help, but the priest was not present. The Law of God demanded that only a Levitical priest could offer sacrifices. Saul sent for Samuel, the prophet-priest, but when Samuel delayed coming, Saul himself offered up the sacrifices. At that moment, Samuel arrived. Condemning words were spoken: "Saul, you have done foolishly...your kingdom will not continue: the LORD has sought a man after His own heart." 1 Samuel 13:13-14.

Saul disobeyed again after the battle with Amalek. He did not destroy everything as he had been commanded. 1 Samuel 15:1-23.

Now God chose another man after His own heart as He had promised. 1 Samuel 16:7. His name was David. Samuel anointed him. David became Saul's armour bearer. Now we will see how David's actions proved what was in his heart.

David killed the giant Goliath, the champion of the Philistines. We read the entire story in 1 Samuel 17:1-58. David proved himself brave, humble, loyal, a man of faith who gave all the glory to God. 1 Samuel 17:37, 45-46. King Saul became envious and would not give his throne to David.

In fact, Saul tried to kill David. 1 Samuel 18:1-14. David had to run for his life. He had to wander in exile for several years, but God was with him and kept him safely during all his wanderings. David had chosen the way of faith and life. Saul, on the other hand, went lower and lower until he finally went to ask a witch for advice. 1 Samuel 28:7-19. She told Saul of his soon coming death. Saul had to admit: "I have played the fool." 1 Samuel 26:21. He had chosen the way that *seemed right to man* but it proved to be the way of death. After Saul's death, David became king over all the 12 Tribes of Israel.

King Saul stands for the old self-nature of man which always makes a fool of those who yield to it. King David stands for the new spiritual nature which we receive when we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. Christ is made unto us wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30), and His name is Counselor (Isaiah 9:6). Proverbs 12:15 tells us: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he that hearkens to counsel is wise."

As Saul tried to kill David several times, so the old self-nature is always trying to slay/kill the new nature. To which are you going to yield today? Are you going to be foolish or wise? Christ is waiting to be your Counselor. It is wise to yield your life to Him.

MEMORY VERSE: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkens to counsel is wise." Proverbs 12:15.

LESSON 14 - WORK SHEET

1. Why is *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE* now called KINGDOM HIGHWAY?
1 Samuel 8:5-6. _____

What were Saul's three great steps downward from his place of honour as King?

2. 1 Samuel 13:13 _____
3. 1 Samuel 15:23 _____
4. 1 Samuel 28:7 _____

What were the three great things in David which showed he was worthy to be King?

5. 1 Samuel 16:7 _____
6. 1 Samuel 17:45 _____
7. 1 Samuel 18:5 _____
8. According to Proverbs 12:15, why would you say that Saul was a fool?

9. How can we have wisdom? 1 Corinthians 1:30 _____

10. Write from memory Proverbs 12:15. _____
