

LESSON 14 – FROM PROMISE ROAD TO KINGDOM BOULEVARD

1 Samuel 8 – 2 Samuel 6

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

“Give us a king to judge us.” said all the elders of Israel, “appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.” With this demand the Israelites rejected the Lord God as their King and chose a man to rule over them. 1 Samuel 8:5-7. 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 10:18,19. They did not understand the sorrow that this request for a man to rule over them would bring. 1 Samuel 8:10-22.

Do you remember our verse about the way of life and the way of death from lesson 1? We have been seeing many examples of those who chose one way or the other. Not only is life on earth about choosing the way of eternal life or of eternal death. It's also about choosing the right way to serve God here on earth after choosing the way of eternal life. Today we shall read about two kings, one who chose not to serve God the right way and the other who did.

In Acts 13:18 the apostle Paul tells us that for a period of about 40 years God put up with Israel in the wilderness. After destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan he distributed their land as an inheritance. Then He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. In the book of Judges we can read how these judges judged problems in Israel. Also how they fought and delivered the nation from slavery by its enemies who oppressed them from all sides. All of this took about 450 years. Acts 13:19,20. During that time there had been many periods of great sin, breaking of the Law, and idolatry. And now in demanding for a man to become king over them, Israel committed another sin.

The first chosen king was named Saul. He was handsome and tall. 1 Samuel 9:2. He was pleasing to the eyes of the people and so all the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!”. 1 Samuel 10:24. 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 BOULEVARD. When Saul began to reign, he led the people against their enemies, the Philistines. The Israelites had great fear. Saul knew that he had to wait seven days for Samuel to do the offering of the burnt offering and the peace offering. But Saul could not wait and decided to start offering by himself. As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, Samuel came. Condemning words were spoken: “You have acted foolishly; ... your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart...” 1 Samuel 13:1-14.

Saul disobeyed again after the battle with Amalek. He did not destroy everything as he had been commanded. 1 Samuel 15:1-23. And therefore God rejected Saul from being king.

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. 1 Samuel 16:21. Now we will see how David's actions proved what was in his heart.



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In 1 Samuel 17 we read the entire story how David killed the giant Goliath, the champion of the Philistines. 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. At the end David had to run for his life. He had to hide for several years, but God was with him and kept him safely.

David had chosen the way of faith to serve God. Saul, on the other hand, went lower and lower until he finally went to ask a medium for advice. 1 Samuel 28:7-19. This was against the law mentioned in Leviticus 19:31. The medium was used in some way to tell Saul of his soon coming death. Before Saul already 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 reigned for 40 years. 2 Samuel 5:4. This was the same time that Saul had been king over Israel. Acts 13:21. In 1 Samuel 13:1 we read that Saul reigned two years over Israel. How do we explain this difference? After two years Saul was rejected from being a king in a spiritual sense (1 Samuel 15:23) but he continued to be a king in a national sense for 40 years.

David was 30 years old when he became king (2 Samuel 5:4), so he was born in the 10th year of Saul's reign. We know that Jonathan, Saul his son, smote the garrison of the Philistines in the beginning of his father's reign. 1 Samuel 13:3. He must have been at least 20 years old at that time. Numbers 1:3. Thus, Jonathan was about 30 years old when David was born. If David was 15 years old when he slew Goliath, Jonathan would be 45 years old at the time he and David formed their friendship.

Jonathan was probably one of the most spiritual minded and righteous men on earth to ever live. Although he was next in line to the throne, Jonathan accepted the word of God that David was to be the next king (something his father Saul never accepted). Whereas other men would kill for a chance to be a king, Jonathan abdicated the throne to David. Jonathan and David were like-minded, like-faithed and best friends who loved each other.

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 should yield to after we trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour from going to hell.

Christ became to us wisdom from God (1 Corinthians 1:30), and His name is Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6). Proverbs 12:15 tells us: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes. But a wise man is he who listens to counsel."

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 the rest of your life here on earth? Are you going to be foolish or wise? Christ wants to be your Wonderful Counselor. It is wise to yield your life to Him.

MEMORY VERSE: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel." 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 Proverbs 12:15: _____

_____.