

Week 3 (2nd Qtr) Study Questions

1. In 1 Samuel 8:1-5, Samuel's sons are Judges of Israel. What are their names? How do the sons of Samuel compare with Eli's sons? How does God's reaction to Samuel concerning his sons differ from his reaction to Eli concerning his son's?
2. Who does God say the people have rejected in 1 Samuel 8:6-9 when they demand a king? What was Samuel's initial reaction?
3. **STRETCH QUESTION:** Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20 (written 400 years earlier). What does this indicate in light of the passing events of 1 Samuel 8:1-9? Read: Romans 3:21-26 (stress 23). God made provisions from the coming of a Jewish king due to the people rejecting Him. What provisions has God made for us? By what King do we resolve our rejection (sin) problem? How does that happen? (Yes, the steps to accept his grace and obtain Salvation with chapter and verse references for each.)
4. Note the tax rate and government (Federal, State and Local) in the United States is for most people nearly 45% of the average person's income. In 1 Samuel 8:10-21, Samuel sternly warns God's promised people about what will happen if they agree to a king. What is the "tax rate" Samuel tries to try to "scare" the children of Israel into not rejecting God? Read Mathew 22:15-22. Note that during Roman days the tax collectors just kept collecting until they were done no fixed rate. They just kept using Roman force until they felt like they had collected enough. What does Jesus say our attitude toward taxes should be even though he lived during this time?
5. 1 Samuel 9:1-14 we are introduced to Saul who became the first king of Israel. What is his tribe? What can you conclude about the permanence of his house's rein as king's of Israel from his tribe? (Hint: Genesis 49:10) What are is physical attributes? Does this look like the type of person a nation at this time would pick to be a king? Remember the physical nature and expectation match of the outward Saul as we continue this study. Describe the series of events that lead to Samuel and Saul meeting.
6. Was the meeting of Saul a surprise to Samuel in 1 Samuel 9:15-27? How did Samuel greet Saul and what was Saul's reaction at this point in his life? It will be important to keep in mind this young Saul and his heart as we continue our study.
7. **STRETCH QUESTION:** The term God's Anointed will play a huge role when Saul is seeking to kill David later in the story. Note the events of 1 Samuel 10:1-16. What is the outward sign that Samuel performed upon Saul to indicate his role as God's Anointed? What miraculous sign did the Holy Spirit cause Saul to do as a confirmation of this Saul's new station? Note: 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of the proper use of miraculous spiritual gifts and so does 1 Corinthians 14. 1 Corinthians 13 is an aside conversation that Paul uses to describe the time-line of miraculous gifts. When was that part of God's plan to end? Today people will use the example of Saul's anointing and say when Christians are anointed by God with grace and salvation; then, they are given miraculous spiritual gifts. How does this belief compare to 1 Corinthians 13? What does this tell you about the proper use of scripture to find God's will?
8. Look at the passage 1 Samuel 10:17-27. What special instructions did Samuel give to the children of Israel concerning a King? How did Samuel record it? Who did he give honor to once the information was record? Read Romans 13:1-7. Why is it significant that nothing was done when some people demonstrated rebellion? (Hint: Romans 13:4).

9. Saul performs a specific act in 1 Samuel 11:1-10 to convince the children of Israel that they must come out and fight for the new kingdom. What was the act? Why would that have been partially frightening to people of the day?
10. At the end of 1 Samuel 11 in verses 11-14, the children of Israel battle another nation, what nation is it and what are the results? Saul extends something to his enemies who survived the battle that was unusual for the day, what was it? Where did the people officially “coronate” King Saul and how did they celebrate the event?
11. **STRETCH QUESTION:** The whole chapter of 1 Samuel 12 is Samuel’s address to the nation of Israel. Note the example he sets for King Saul by noting his good reputation among the people by saying, “Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you.”
 - What are some benchmarks you can use to day to measure your good reputation?

Notice how Samuel points out the past poor behavior of this nation.

 - What are some benchmarks you can use to day to note warning points in your life?
12. Saul messes up just after one year of being king. What was this terrible act he did? (1 Samuel 13:1-15) Why was it wrong? Is this really a big deal since he was sincere and was just trying to find a way to please God? Why or Why not?
13. In verses 16-23 of 1 Samuel 13, Jonathan and King Saul think on their feet to make sure the people have weapons for battle with the Philistines. What did the nation of Israel do to trick the Philistines into arming them?
14. The bravery of David in battle is well known, but in our study (1 Samuel 14:1-23) Jonathan demonstrates he is also a proficient warrior. Who does he pull his faith in to lead him to victory in battle? How does Jonathan’s faith affect the companion who is with him? Read Matthew 5:13-16 and consider Jonathan’s actions in the passage in 1 Samuel. What are you doing today to inspire others per the instructions of Jesus, or is you attitude causing you to just not get anything out of Bible class or not get anything out of worship at church? The key is this: What are you putting INTO those things?
15. Note how rash Saul is again. There seems to be a pattern of arrogance and lack of thought in his decisions. Describe his rash decision and who the rash decision put into danger? (From 1 Samuel 14:24- 46).
16. Saul’s style of battle as a General and his personal one-on-one approach to battle is described in 1 Samuel 14:47-52. What nations was he attacking? Who attacked the strongest and best enemy warrior when Israel was in battle? Make note of this and contrast that with the king’s reaction to Goliath in our reading.
17. **STRETCH QUESTION:** Saul once again messes up very greatly in 1 Samuel 15:1-35. What was he asked to do? What did he actually do? Note that this is an example of someone not following “*necessary inference*” in following God’s will. Saul was specifically asked to do something, but he failed to do it exactly by making his own alternative. Did he think he was doing God’s will? Do you think he was sincere? What does this mean to you as far as the concept of false doctrine? What is the final fate of Saul due to this additional mistake? What are some other examples of “*necessary inference*” in the Bible?

18. Saul seems to be developing an arrogance problem in the study so far. Read Psalm 18 and Psalm 8. When you consider the greatness of God, is it easier for you to maintain humility? Why or Why not (at least three sentences)? Now read Psalm 39, is this a similar or a different attitude to that of Saul? Give evidence for the similarity or the points that contrast.
19. David is introduced to us in 1 Samuel 16:1-13. How is David selected to be the next king? What tribe is he? What can we determine when we consider his tribe and our knowledge of Jacob's final address to his sons? How does Samuel judge who can be king? Did Saul fit that mold of a king? How did God pick the king of His people?
20. David becomes a harp player for Saul in 1 Samuel 16:14-23. Why is David needed to play for Saul? What are David's qualifications noted by Saul's advisers? Can you determine something about his age when you consider David's qualifications? Note that this is before Goliath. Do you now think he is older or younger than you always imaged? What additional role does David earn while serving Saul?
21. David and Goliath is a story we all know very well. After reading this again (1 Samuel 17:1-58), what new elements do you have learned that you may have missed before? Remember how Saul (Remember, Saul is a large man himself.) always attacked the strongest enemy himself. Now, he is in as much fear as anyone else. Image the bravest person you know being suddenly afraid. How would that make you feel about the person or situation he is afraid of? Can you see how this paralyzed the entire army of Israel? (Give details on why you think this.) How does David's faith affect his emotions when he hears about Goliath? How does David's faith result in his success where others were too afraid to try? Note David took five stones. Many scholars think this is because Goliath may have four brothers who were also very large men, and David was saying, "I'll take care of you and your bothers too!"
22. Read Psalm 23 and Psalm 5. What about David's character do these Psalms revile? How does that contrast with Saul's character? We will see that those differences result in difficult times between Saul and David.
23. We see Jonathan observing the honor and character that David demonstrated in 1 Samuel 18:1-16. What does this tell you about how to pick your friends? When faced with David's fame, how does Saul react? How does this reaction at this stage of his life contrast the young Saul we studied earlier in 1 Samuel? Saul has height, strength, power, and fame of his own, but he cannot control his own jealousy. Remember our study of Cain and Able. How is this similar?
24. Saul's jealousy causes him to attempt to use his daughter's pending marriage to David as a weapon. (1 Samuel 18:17-30) What was the name of the daughter of Saul who married David? What dowry request did Saul make in hopes of getting David killed? How did David respond? What did these events make Saul toward David "continually"? Why did Saul feel that way?
25. David could have thought, "It is not fair the king wants to kill me, I am just going to give up on God." David had a different heart. Read Psalm 11. What does this say of God's fairness? Also, note that David knew that those God would help him against those who act wickedly toward him (Psalm 12). Do you often try to fix things without God's help? How often do you pray and plead for God's guidance in life? Do you study your Bible so that you can hear the Father's answer? Old Testament surveys may not be so bad after all!
26. In 1 Samuel 19:1-24 we continue to see how Saul's heart turns more toward his hate of David. What do you see in Jonathan's character when Saul wants to kill David? Have you ever heard of people who act sinfully then blame it on the way their parents behaved? Does Jonathan

follow in his father's poor example? David knows of Saul's desire to kill him, yet he still goes to play before God's anointed. What does this tell you about David's bravery and sense of duty? Michal was to be a weapon against David, but what happens in this passage?

27. Even though David was very brave and still loyal to Saul, he still was distressed over the situation. Read Psalm 59. Is it okay for a Christian to experience stress in his life? How did David deal with it? Psalm 7 is David's plea for God to judge him according to his life. Are you ready for God to judge you according to your current state in life? David was ready! Now read Psalm 25. How can you be more confident in God's ways and trust in him better?
28. Read 1 Samuel 20: 1-42. David is aware of the danger he is in due to Saul, and he asks Jonathan to inquire of his situation. What is the result of Jonathan talking to his father? How did Jonathan communicate to David what his father's intentions toward David were? What was the promise they made with one another at their parting concerning their families? How would you describe the parting of David and Jonathan?