

Lesson 18 I Samuel 11 - 20

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. *Saul of Gibeah cuts up oxen and sends the parts through Israel as a rallying call. What precedent was there for such action? See Judges 19.*
2. *God tests Saul's character. How are his weaknesses revealed?*
3. *Why is human judgment of others faulty?*
4. *Note the signs that the David stories rely on several traditions? Why were the final editors satisfied with recording contradictory stories side by side?*
5. *Saul's son, Jonathan, and David both inherited and made their own, faith in the Lord. How do they demonstrate this faith?*

Psalm 102 and prayer

David is a poet and songster. We will use psalms of David as our opening reading now that David enters our story. A great military figure, an imposing leader of men, a rough and ready sort whose actions, moral and otherwise, often surprise and dismay us, David nevertheless, had the heart, eye and ear of a poet who loved God. Some of the most beautiful hymns of praise, of sorrow, of exultation, and of dejection in literature are credited to his pen. Perhaps some were not written by David, critics ponder this, yet there is no doubt he was a sensitive man who expressed himself in the lyrics of Israel's songs, so strong is the tradition, and so apt are they to events in his life.

Saul is still farming at his family home. There is no seat, no kingly residence in Israel. Though he has been anointed king, there is no court, no power structure to manage. What can such a king do? Just go home and keep on doing what he has always done - farm. It will take some crisis to mobilize Israel around Saul, and to give him opportunity as a leader. The crisis comes. The people of Jabesh-gilead have been besieged by Ammonites. To break the siege they try negotiation. They are willing to become servants and slaves of Ammon in return for lifting the siege. This isn't good enough for Ammon: they want every man's right eye, sure the unmet demand will mean they can continue till they

conquer. To save themselves, Jabesh-gilead cries for help from Israel. People in Gibeah are upset with the news. They are directly related to the Jabeshites; their grandmothers had come from there as wives for the remaining Benjaminites after the civil war. That war was over the rape of the concubine in Gibeah two generations earlier. When Saul hears the news, the Spirit of God comes upon him like Samson and the judges of old. He is empowered by God for his task. He recalls the previous rallying cry in the war with Gibeah by cutting up a yoke of oxen, an effective call to arms. Israel musters at Bezek "as one man." For the first time the account tallies people in two groups - the men from Israel, and the men from Judah. Already a crack is appearing between the north and south which will eventually widen into a gully with no bridge.

Saul's kingship is confirmed. Saul's victory is decisive, and those who have been unsure about his leadership are convinced. They are ready to put to death any who grumbled when he was drawn by lot at Mizpah, but he won't allow it. Israel is consolidated around him, Samuel is present and they take him to Gilgal to "renew the Kingdom." Samuel sacrifices and Saul is made king, this time by acclamation. This is the third step toward acceptance of Saul's kingship - the first, the anointing in secret by Samuel in Ramah, the second by lot at Mizpah, the third by victory and sacrifice at Gilgal.

Samuel retires. Samuel may now retire; his public service days as the first national judge of Israel are ended. He feels that he has placed Israel in the hands of Saul. He proceeds to put himself on trial before the people. There are forty years or so of Samuel's life that are hidden, from the time of the destruction of Shiloh on. These years were probably spent in preparing people to throw off the yoke of the Philistines, going about strengthening and ministering to the elders of the people. He now demands that he and the people settle accounts so that he can go into retirement in peace. Before God as a witness, the people agree that Samuel is faultless in his leadership. He has done nothing that they can later use for a grievance. Like Moses, his great predecessor, Samuel knows God as a God of deeds! If the people are oppressed, God is their Deliverer. He goes over the whole history from the beginning, emphasizing how God delivers through men He raises up, naming himself as the last of those judges. Now they have a king whom they

wanted despite Samuel's reservations. However, if they and their king will hearken to God and not rebel against Him, all will go well. This admonition is an echo of Moses. Samuel then ends his rule of Israel with a proof of his divine inspiration, a great sign. Though it is not the time for such storms, he calls up a storm. In the summons is a grumble about the evil that the people have done in desiring a king other than God. The storm terrifies everyone, and they beg for forgiveness for making this king. Their repentance is accepted, and again they are assured that if they and their king obey, serving only Yahweh, it will be all right. Samuel pledges to pray for them.

The Philistines are in control of most of the land. Though earlier we were told that Samuel was successful in holding back the Philistines, at this point most of Israel is under their control. Saul's destiny and reign will be tied in to this powerful group of warriors who also want the whole land of Canaan. Musters are no longer held in Mizpah, now Philistine territory, but at Gilgal, the site where Joshua first established a base west of the Jordan. The battle of Geba and Michmash is alluded to briefly in chapter thirteen, the more detailed account comes later. While Saul is at Gilgal with the troops, the Philistines converge at Michmash. Their superiority has Israel terrified.

Does Saul have what it takes? Samuel has given Saul definite instructions (10:8) about gathering the troops at Gilgal and waiting for him there to offer the sacrifices necessary to win God's help in battles to come. Saul waits the required time . . . almost. Then fear gets the better of him. His soldiers are deserting. So Saul decides to offer the sacrifice himself. He has just finished sacrificing to God when Samuel arrives angry at his lack of trust and obedience. "I forced myself," says Saul. That isn't good enough, this foolishness will mean his kingdom will not last. With just 600 men, Saul goes up to Geba very near Michmash to prepare for the fight. There he watches the Philistines send out raiding parties, west, east and south, but then moves on to Gibeah (note how close these two places are on your map), his home. His Aaronic priest who wears the ephod and draws Urim and Thummim, is Ahijah, a

grandson of Eli. Weapons are in short supply; the Philistines are in control of all the metal works. Only Saul and Jonathan actually seem to have a spear.

Jonathan trusts God; does Saul? Then one day Jonathan, Saul's son, impulsively takes things into his own hands. With his young armor bearer he sneaks through the gully between the opposing heights of Geba and Michmash. The two youths decide together that how the Philistines respond to their challenge will be an indication of God's will. "Come on up, we'll show you a thing or two," say the few Philistines left in the camp (with the raiding parties out on expeditions) They have said the right thing. With complete trust in God, Jonathan is able to rout the camp with the help of a timely earthquake. Saul's watchmen keeping an eye on things from Gibeah note the commotion; Urim and Thummim are drawn to see if they should enter the fray. The battle rallies those who had deserted back into the ranks, and Hebrews who had been forced into Philistine conscription are able to fight with Israel. However, Saul has done a foolish thing. He made his troops swear to fast until the enemy was defeated. Jonathan, not hearing the order, hungrily eats honey. When informed, he thinks his father's order was wrong. The battle is hot, and the soldiers are faint from hunger. Immediately, when the Philistines are defeated they kill animals and eat them with the blood. This disorder is caused by Saul's poor judgment; he tries to make amends by seeing that the slaughter is lawful, but again it is too little too late. He then builds his first altar to the Lord. Again, he will rashly take up the battle. A priest has to remind him to draw sacred lots to determine the mind of God on the matter. No clear answer came from the drawing, why does God not reply? Because of sin. Who has sinned, who is guilty? Saul swears that whoever it is, himself or Jonathan, he will die. Jonathan is taken by lot. Saul is prepared to kill him for his transgression, but the people join to redeem Jonathan from the oath with an animal sacrifice.

Saul has victories. Saul is a good military commander despite episodes of rashness, and he has victories against many of the traditional enemies. He gathers a tough group of fighters around himself. Samuel sends them on a mission to destroy the Amalekites. Israel has a long memory, and God too, it seems. When the people left Egypt two

hundred years previous, Amalekites were put under the ban for attacking unarmed Israel. Samuel instructs Saul to carry out the ban. Memory of the Kenite's relationship to Moses is not unforgotten, and Kenite tent dwellers are warned to separate themselves from Amalek. Saul follows the ban except he spares the king and saves the best of the animals. He can't seem to get things right in the way God requires of those who serve him. Samuel is angry when God tells him he has rejected Saul, he cries over Saul whom he has grown to love. Then he finds out that Saul has erected a monument to himself, and when he meets him Saul lies saying he has carried out the command to the letter. Samuel reminds him of what that command was, and asks about the bleating he hears. "Ahh," says Saul, "the animals kept by 'the people' are for sacrifice to the Lord.

Obedience is what God requires. The Lord does not want sacrifice (of something that is already His own under the ban). He wants obedience. The words will be repeated by the prophets to come. Do what God says! Do not try to do something better, like making sacrifice. Saul sees his mistake and asks for forgiveness. He explains that he did wrong because he feared the people, and he begs Samuel to go with him to worship God. Samuel will not. Saul has rejected God's word, and God has rejected him. Saul grabs hold of him as he is leaving, tearing Samuel's robe. Samuel prophesies that the kingdom has been torn from Saul and will be given to somebody else. Saul admits that his sin is great, but begs Samuel to go with him to worship in order to save face, so Samuel relents. Samuel hacks Agag the Amalekite to pieces before leaving for Ramah. He never sees Saul again, grieving over him till he dies.

Another will take Saul's place. Under pretense of offering sacrifice, God sends Samuel to Bethlehem to meet Jesse. He invites Jesse and his impressive sons to the sacrificial meal. As they are introduced to him, he is sure that one of them may be the one God has chosen to be king; but one by one they are rejected by God. Finally Jesse admits he has another son shepherding the flocks. David is sent for, just a lad, and Samuel anoints him in the midst of his brothers. David is now under

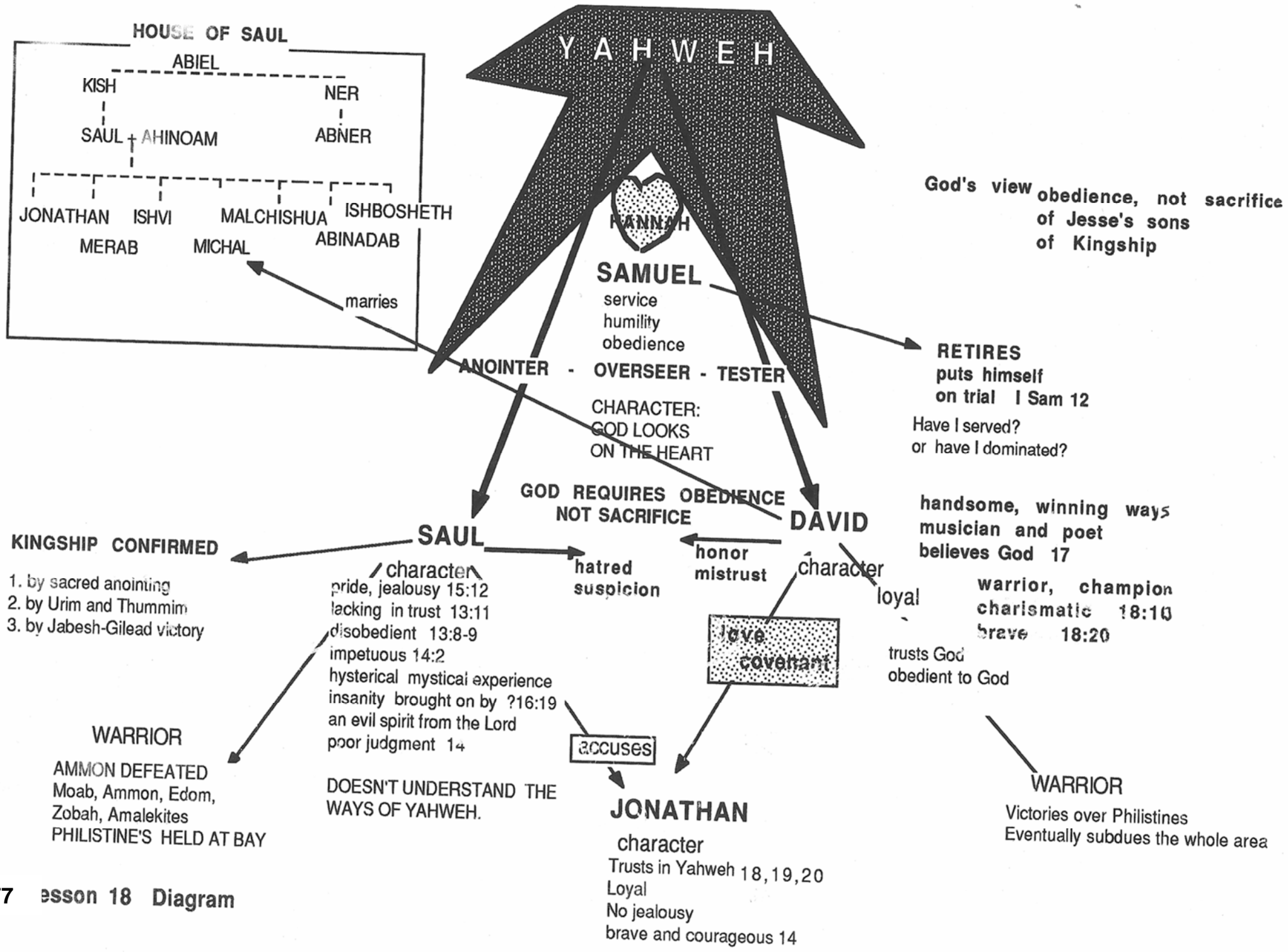
the control of Spirit. "The Lord's anointed" will in time mean the looked-for Messiah, which means "anointed."

In typical Bible causality, God sends an evil spirit upon Saul. Brooding because of Samuel and God's rejection he is in deep depression. His confidence has collapsed because he believed his strength was from the Lord, that he had been made into another man; now it is all taken away. His servants suggest soothing music as a cure, and David is sent for. He comes as a servant and Saul soon loves him, raising him to a position of armor bearer. A new era begins as David becomes the confidant and consoler of the king.

David kills the Philistine. In a story that is from another tradition, we have David meeting Saul for the first time in an ongoing battle waged with Philistines in the valley of Elah. Here the great Goliath, one of the Anakim, vaunts his huge size against the Israelites who are terrified of his threats. Three of David's brothers fight with Saul's army, while David, coming back and forth from home, supplies their needs. A young man with faith in Yahweh, he cannot understand Israel's fear. God is with them, and he will demonstrate it; he tells Saul that he will fight Goliath. And so he does, the story is well known. A mere youth in the strength of the Lord kills the Philistine's champion with a few brook stones and a sling. That the head was taken to Jerusalem is a later addition to the original text; Jerusalem was not under Israel's control at this time.

The faith David expressed to Saul was overheard by Jonathan. The two love and trust God in the same way, and they are drawn together. Jonathan gives him all his battle gear, and David becomes a very successful warrior. The women soon are singing a ditty that draws Saul further into clouds of jealousy. Twice he attempts to spear David in his house. Finally he offers his daughter Merab's hand to David who doesn't feel worthy to be his son-in-law. A second daughter, Michal, falls in love with David and for a bride's price of a hundred Philistine foreskins, the bargain is struck. Saul's hope that the Philistines will kill David goes unmet; he brings back two hundred foreskins. The Lord is with David and all Israel loves him. Saul becomes more unhinged. Repenting of wanting David dead, Saul swears to leave off trying to kill him, but the evil spirit comes upon him, and again he tries to spear David. Michal

saves his life by putting a teraphim image (where do these things come from?) in his bed, while letting him down from a window. She deceives her father by saying David threatened to kill her. So David goes off to live with Samuel at Ramah. The Holy Spirit ecstasies of the prophet band save David three times, each time the killers Saul sends are swept by a prophetic spirit. When Saul goes after David himself he too is overcome. David meets Jonathan and they discuss the serious situation. David knows well that Saul means to kill him, but Jonathan has heard him declare he will not do it. David is supposed to appear at the feast at the New Moon, so they devise a plan for testing Saul's temper concerning David. David and Jonathan have a sacred covenant of friendship, and they pledge continued friendship. Jonathan asks that David be lenient to his family when he comes into power. Saul is very angry and implies things are immoral between David and Jonathan who sends the message to David by the signal they arranged. When the coast is clear, he speaks to David himself, confirming his fears that Saul will indeed kill him.



Lesson 18 | Samuel 11 - 20
Synopsis

11. Ammonites siege Jabesh-gilead demand every man's right eye Jabeshites send out for help Saul is out plowing with oxen the news comes from Jabesh he cuts up the oxen, sends pieces as a call to arms to Israel they all mustered as one man some are called "men of Israel" and others "men of Judah" Saul cuts down the Ammonites this action confirms his kingship he forgives his Israelite critics with Samuel he goes to Gilgal to renew the kingdom and to sacrifice to the Lord
12. Samuel gives his last speech he puts himself on trial calls witnesses, including God to review his character and acts he reiterates Israel's history with emphasis on "God saves" fear God, you and your king don't rebel and it will be well but rebel, God will be against you this is sealed with a sign the Lord sends out of season a frightening thunder and rain "fear and obey the Lord for His name's sake that He not seem to the world a vanity or His words all in vain If you do wickedly with your king you will all be swept away"
13. Saul was forty beginning his reign he reigned thirty-two years

preview of the battle at Michmash a muster called at Gilgal Philistines muster at Michmash Israel is scared by their numbers the soldiers hid or deserted Saul's numbers dissolving he waits seven days for Samuel finally he can wait no longer and offers the sacrifice himself Samuel comes the eleventh hour he is angry at Saul's presumption Saul has not passed his first test but broken the command of God another king will be sought Samuel leaves, Saul stays with small force of 600 men three companies of Philistines observed leaving Michmash west, north and south Philistines with the secret of iron had pretty much disarmed Israel it was a desperate situation Saul is at Gibeah with 600 men and the priest Ahijah

14. Saul's son Jonathan on impulse goes to the Philistine garrison he and his armor bearer they trust God and test the enemy few soldiers left at the garrison Jonathan eliminates them all God sends an earthquake to help Saul's men see panic on the far hill where Jonathan, his armor bearer are winning the fight Ahijah draws Urim and Thummim the lots say go and fight all, even deserters, mercenaries fight against the Philistines the Lord delivered Israel that day

Saul has sworn the soldiers not to eat till the battle is won Jonathan eats honey unknowingly Jonathan later believes his father is wrong about the enforced fast he struck down the Philistines from Michmash to Aijalon the battle over, the people faint they hungrily attack the spoil sinfully eating blood with meat Saul told of sin against the law he provides for lawful slaughter he makes a sacrifice and altar his priest inquires of God whether to go on with the battle God does not answer there is a sin - what is it? Jonathan is drawn by lot to *die* he is saved by the people the Philistines go home Saul wins over Moab, Ammon, Edom, Zobah, Philistia, Amalek Saul's family: sons, Jonathan, Ishvi (Ishbosheth), Malchishua daughters; Merab, Michal, wife, Ahinoam, his uncle, Abner is commander of his army hard fighting with the Philistines goes on all of Saul's days

15. The Lord says to punish Amalek because of their attack on Israel back at the time of the Exodus Kenites (Moses' in-law family) told to depart Amalek for safely Saul defeats the Amalekites King Agag is taken prisoner but disobediently he is spared also the best of the booty again Saul has disobeyed

Samuel is angry, cries to God Saul sets a monument to himself he doesn't see the difference that a thing offered to God as a sacrifice cannot be a thing already under the ban Samuel says, "obedience is better than sacrifice" Saul blames the people Samuel says, Saul is rejected God won't change his mind Samuel finally goes with Saul to worship, saving face for him Samuel kills Agag and goes home Samuel grieves for Saul

16. God sends Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint a son of Jesse as king he hides his purpose from Saul he goes as if to sacrifice Jesse's family invited to the feast each son brought is rejected the Lord looks on the heart the last is the youngest, David this is the one, God says Samuel anoints him king an evil spirit overtakes Saul the son of Jesse is called he plays the lyre for Saul calming Saul who loves him and makes him his armor-bearer David ministers to Saul
17. the Philistines gather at Socoh Saul and Israel are encamped in the valley of Elah a champion Goliath is ten ft. tall he taunts the Israel fighters David is sent with provisions for his brothers who are soldiers David hears Goliath's taunts

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- why isn't this man killed?
 God is with Israel, why fear?
 his brothers think he presumes
 Saul is told about David's
 words David is allowed to try to
 kill him he is given Saul's armor
 but it is too heavy,
 he arms himself with a slingshot
 and chases brook stones the
 Philistine curses David's God The
 Lord saves! cries David Goliath is
 given into David's hand David kills
 him, cuts off his head this
 stimulates a rout by Israel David
 tells who he is
18. Jonathan and David are friends
 David is a successful warrior
 and the women sing him songs
 his success makes Saul jealous
 Saul's love turns sour he tries
 to kill David twice
 David continues his successes
 and all Israel and Judah love him
 David is promised Saul's daughter
 Merab is given to someone else
 another daughter loves David to
 marry Michal, the bride's price is
 one hundred Philistine foreskins
 Saul hopes the Philistines kill him
 but David brings 200 foreskins
 Saul gives him Michal as a wife
 David wins against the Philistines
19. Saul plots David's death
 Jonathan intercedes for David
 Saul promises not to kill him but
 tries to spear him, he escapes
 Michal saves David
 with an image in his bed
 David goes to live with Samuel
20. Saul sends messengers to kill
 him the Spirit of God falls on
 them three times David is saved
 Saul goes himself and again he
 falls into a religious ecstasy "Is
 Saul among the prophets?"
20. David flees to Jonathan
 Jonathan believes Saul's promise
 that Saul will not kill David
 David is supposed to be at a
 feast but distrusting Saul, he's
 absent Saul is angry plotting
 against him Jonathan will test
 Saul's resolve David promises
 Jonathan not to cut off his name
 when he becomes king they have
 a plan to communicate if others
 are around, David hides on the
 second day of the feast Saul is
 angry at Jonathan
 reveals his intent to kill David
 Saul tries to kill Jonathan who
 went to keep his appointment he
 shot the arrows as planned for
 their secret communication but
 no one is around
 he and David speak
 then leave each other in peace
21. David flees to Nob to Ahimelech the
 priest of the house of Levites he
 gives David the show bread
 David's band, ritually clean, eats
 Doeg, Saul's man, spies on him
 Ahimelech gives David
 Goliath's sword, he flees
 goes to Achish of Gath
 where David feigns madness

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Lesson 18 | Samuel 11 - 20 Outline

I. Four main characters

A. Samuel the prophet

1. he is prophet, priest, and judge for Yahweh
 - a. he understands Yahweh's view of things
 - 1) the importance of obedience which is blessed and disobedience which is cursed
 - 2) his speech to Saul, 15:22, sacrifice is not as important as obedience
 - b. at his retirement he tries himself before the people 12:3 ff
 - d. he delivers a Moses-like speech 12:7 ff
2. he is the anointer and overseer of Israel's first kings
 - a. he tested Saul for God 13:8 ff
 - b. he turns his back on Saul 15:34-35
 - c. he loved Saul and mourned his rejection by God 15:34
 - d. he anoints David as a youth in his home 16:13
 - e. David flees Saul to slay with him
3. he has a powerful reputation
 - a. the elders of Bethlehem come to him trembling 16:4
 - b. he kills King Agag himself when Saul does not obey 15:32 ff
 - c. he calls for thunder storm during dry season to show the wickedness of asking for a king 12:18 and the people fear him
4. his view of kingship is equivocal
 - a. he considers it rejection of himself and Yahweh therefore evil 12:17, 8:7, 8:10 ff
 - b. he obeys Yahweh to allow a king 12:14 8:22
 - 1) therefore kingship will be blessed, if...
 - 2) both Israel and its king must be obedient or it won't work

B. Saul, the first king of Israel

1. he is only a farm lad
 - a. he returned from the anointing at Gilgal to his farm
 - b. was not active until news from Jabesh-gilead caused him to take command of the army
 - c. there was no royal tradition, or seat of power
2. he is a fine warrior leader
 - a. he defeated the Ammonites at Jabesh-gilead
 - 1) the town was the home of his grandmother
 - a) recalling the story of Gibeah and rape of the concubine Ju 19

- b) her body was cut up and sent as rallying call for civil war against the Benjaminites who were decimated
- c) 600 Benjaminites then given wives from Jabesh to recoup their losses in population

d) Saul is a Benjaminite from Gibeah

- 2) he also used cut up pieces of oxen to rally Israel to defend Jabesh
 - 3) this confirmed his kingship and began his successful war with the Philistine power
- b. he had some success against the Philistines
- 1) he mustered his troops at Gilgal against huge odds,
 - a) Philistia had 30,000 chariots and 6000 horsemen
 - b) demoralized, the Israelite soldiers desert and hide
 - 2) the first battle is initiated by Saul's son Jonathan
 - 3) he had only 600 men, but succeeded in defeating Philistia with God's help and Jonathan's audacity
- c. he battled Moab, Amman, Edom, Zobah, Amalek with success 14:47
- d. he defeated the ancient enemy, the Amalekites 15:4ff
3. he is a troubled king
- a. he was chosen king in three ways
 - 1) he had a private anointing by the prophet 10:1
 - 2) in the assembly he was chosen by drawing of sacred lots 11:20ff
 - 3) his kingship was affirmed by success in war 11:121f
 - b. but pride and jealousy overcame him
 - 1) he set up a monument to himself 15:12
 - 2) Samuel is sarcastic 15:17
 - 3) he is envious of the successes of David 18:8
 - c. he is lacking in spiritual understanding
 - 1) he did not trust God completely
 - a) he failed the test at Gilgal when he did not wait for Samuel 13:8
 - b) he didn't wait because he was worried when his few forces were deserting 13:11
 - c) he made sacrifices himself though he was not authorized 13:9
 - 2) he disobeyed God
 - a) he didn't understand the difference between sacrifice and "herem"
 - b) he took things that were "banned" (they belonged to Yahweh)
 - c) he said they were for a sacrifice to Yahweh. (How can you sacrifice to God what belongs to God?)

- d) he did not kill all the Amalekites nor their King who were under the ban
 - 3) he acted impetuously without discerning the will of God
 - a) he put his warriors on a fast at an inopportune time causing them to sin 14:3
 - b) he would have forgotten to ask God 14:36 did he wait for Urim and Thummim in 14:19?
 - 4) his religious experiences were rather hysterical
 - a) when the "band of prophets met him" 10:9-13 he was a changed man
 - b) he chased David and fell under spell of the prophets 19:24
 - d. he was undone when the Holy Spirit left him
 - 1) he collapsed and came under an evil spirit from God
 - 2) this insanity was brought on by jealousy, by insecurity, by character defects - all of them sin
 - 3) he needed calming effects of music, which is one tradition of how he met David for the first time 16: 19
- C. David the blessed youth
- 1. he was just a young man in Bethlehem
 - a. Ruth of Bethlehem was Jesse's grandmother
 - b. he was the youngest son, a shepherd for his father 16:11
 - c. he was anointed king by Samuel, in the midst of his brothers 16:13
 - d. he met Saul in two different traditions
 - 1) when Saul was tormented
 - a) David was called to play the lyre 16:16
 - b) Saul was soothed and loved David
 - 2) when he was sent with provisions for older soldier brothers
 - a) he found Israel's army intimidated by a Philistine champion
 - b) he believed God would deliver His people
 - c) he accepted the challenge though his oldest brother thought he was presumptuous, attention seeking 17:28 (still jealous from the anointing by Samuel?)
 - d) he was noticed by Saul who permitted him to battle Goliath
 - e) faith in God, experience with wild animals brings victory
 - f) The Lord saves, says David 17:46
 - e. he kills the champion of Philistines, Goliath
 - f. he precipitates many victories against the Philistines
 - 2. he is Saul's warrior and champion
 - a. Saul's jealousy begins early

- 1) the women's song -Saul has killed his thousands, David his ten thousands 18:7
- 2) in a rage Saul tries to pin David to the wall twice 18:12
- 3) all Israel and Judah love David 18:16
- 4) the more David is loved, the more Saul fears 18:29
- b. David is to marry Saul's daughters
 - 1) he promised Merab but later denied 18:17
 - 2) Michal loves David 18:20 fl
 - a) the bride price is to be 100 Philistine foreskins
 - b) Saul hopes David will be killed getting them
 - c) David brings 200 foreskins
 - d) David is given Michal in marriage
 - c. he continues to be successful against the Philistines 18:30
- 3. David's friendship with Jonathan
 - a. David and Jonathan's faith in God
 - 1) Jonathan's love for David begins when he hears his profession of faith 18:1
 - 2) both trust God in their battles 17:46, 14:10
 - 3) they covenant together 18:3
 - b. Jonathan accepts that David will be the next king 20:17
 - c. he asks David to promise to protect his family 20:16
 - d. David makes this promise 20:17
- 4. David's flight from Saul
 - a. Michal saves him from being killed in the night 19:13
 - b. he flees to Samuel and lives at Naioth with him
 - c. Saul's men pursue him
 - 1) three groups of messengers fall under the Spirit of God and prophesy
 - 2) Saul comes himself and also prophesied before Samuel
 - a) he lies naked all day and night
 - b) Is Saul also among the prophets? 19:24
 - d. he flees to Jonathan 20
 - 1) they plan to determine Saul's mind about David
 - 2) Saul's evil intent born out
 - e. he flees to the priests at Nob
 - 1) Ahimelech, the priest gives him show bread for food for himself and his men
 - 2) also the sword of Goliath
 - 3) an Edomite spy, Doeg, reports all this to Saul

f. he flees to Achish, king of Gath, Philistine (one tradition of this association 21:10, another story in I Sam 27)

D. Jonathan

1. the warrior

- a. he trusts in God for victories 14:6
- b. he begins a great success against the Philistines at Michmash
 - 1) he sees three groups of the enemy set off 13:17
 - 2) he decides the remaining garrison can be defeated
 - 3) he and his armor bearer watch for God's will 14:10
 - 4) he defeats the remaining garrison 14:13
 - 5) Saul observes the battle from Gibeah, a nearby hill
 - 6) he does or does not wait to consult sacred lots?
 - 7) he flies into the battle and holds his men to a fast
- c. Jonathan unwittingly breaks the vow of fasting -
- d. God will not answer Urim and Thummim 14:37 •
 - 1) who has sinned by breaking the vow?
 - 2) lots are cast, Jonathan and Saul are taken
 - 3) people are guiltless though they ate blood in hunger
 - 4) Jonathan is redeemed by the people from death

2. He is a friend of David .

- a. he loves David as his own soul 18:3, 20:41 •
- b. intercedes for David with Saul 19:2, 6
- c. he takes Saul's abuse because of his friendship and loyalty 20:30

II. God's ways are revealed

- A. He asks for complete obedience
 - 1. the testing of Saul by Samuel to the eleventh hour
 - 2. the "ban" on the Amalekites
- B. He sends His Spirit on His anointed
- C. He removes His Spirit for disobedience
- D. He judges not as men judge 16:7
 - 1. the choice is from Jesse's handsome sons
 - 2. the Lord looks on the heart
- E. He sends an evil spirit (Hebrews believe both good and evil come from God and no other) 16:14
- F. He allows a king over His people but regards it as rejection of His lordship.

Audio-visuals are available with this lesson, reviewing the times from Samuel to David

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