



DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do section A. Read Judges 6:1-10.
- Day 2: Do section B,C. Read Judges 6:11-40.

Lesson 1
Gideon and the Midianites
Judges 6

A. Midianite Oppression. Read Judges 6:1-10

1. The Israelites had been previously judged by invasions from other people into their land. How did the Midianites attack them this time? What had the Israelites done in response? What resulted? What did the Israelites do?

2. What message did God's prophet preach to them? Of what did he remind them? How did he say they had failed?

B. Gideon is Chosen. Read Judges 6:11-32

1. Where was Gideon when the angel of the Lord appeared? Why?

2. What was Gideon's initial reaction to the Lord's offer of help?

3. What did the Lord tell Gideon to do? How did he say this could be done despite Gideon's protest concerning his weakness?

4. What offering did Gideon offer to the angel? What did the angel do with it?

5. What did Gideon recognize? What did he do?

6. What did God instruct Gideon to do about the altar of Baal? When did he do it?
7. What did the men of the city threaten to do? Who defended Gideon? What new name was he given? What did it signify?
8. What did Gideon do the next time the Midianites invaded the land?

C. Gideon Asks for Signs. Read Judges 6:36-40

1. What two signs did Gideon ask God to do?
2. Were these a lack of faith on Gideon's part? Why or why not?



Thought Questions

1. In 6:13, Gideon concluded that the Lord had forsaken Israel because the Midianites were oppressing them.
 - Was this the problem? Had God forsaken Israel? What was the real problem?
 - Do we ever think God has forsaken us - or at least forgotten about us? What are some reasons we might feel this way? Does He ever forsake us? What are some steps we can take to overcome such periods of discouragement?
2. Gideon felt he could not lead God's people because he was from the weakest clan in Manasseh and he was the least in his father's house.
 - Do you think this was a good reason or an excuse?
 - Do we sometimes sell ourselves short in our ability to do what God wants? What are some ways we might do this? How can we overcome such feelings of inadequacy?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read Judges 7:1-18
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Judges 7:19-8:21
- Day 3: Do Section C. Read Judges 8:22-35

Lesson 2
**Gideon Saves
Israel**
Judges 7-8

A. Israel Prepares for Battle. Read Judges 7:1-18

1. Gideon and the people gather for battle but God has other plans. About what is He concerned?
2. Who does Gideon first tell to return to their homes? How many people leave? How many remain?
3. What test did God use next to determine who would stay? How many were there that remained?
4. What extra encouragement did God give to Gideon regarding the battle? What did Gideon do when he heard these men speak?
5. What was their battle plan?

B. The Battle with the Midianites. Read Judges 7:19-8:21

1. How did Gideon and his army attack? What was the reaction of the Midianites? What was their key to victory (with the Lord's help)?
2. Who joined the battle once the Midianites began to flee?
3. What favor did Gideon ask from the men of Succoth and Penuel? Why do you suppose they were reluctant to help?
4. What did Gideon do to these men on his return?

C. After the Battle. Read Judges 8:22-35

1. What did the Israelites want Gideon to do after the battle? How did he reply?

2. What request did Gideon make? What did he do with it? What did Israel do? What does this mean?



Thought Questions

1. Why was it so important to God that the Israelites win their battle with the Midianites with so few men? What did their victory in battle indicate to the Israelites?
 - Can you think of some ways by which we are outnumbered when we try to do what is right? How do we feel when a majority of people are refusing to do something God says or opposing us in trying to do what is right? Why is this such a powerful influence?

 - What lessons can we learn from Gideon about standing up for what is right? God may not give us an opportunity to listen to someone's dream that describes His power, but what indications do we have that He will enable us to face any difficulty we have?

2. Notice the following actions or decisions of Gideon. Determine if they were strengths or weaknesses in his character.
 - He followed God's directions in selecting his army.
 - He received confirmation of his army's success by going down into the camp.
 - He worshiped God when he heard this dream told.
 - He punished the men of Succoth and Penuel for their refusal to supply food to his men.
 - He refused to rule over the people of God after winning his victory against the Israelites.
 - He asked for the ornaments from the Ishmaelites and made an ephod from them.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read Judges 10
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Judges 11,12
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 3
**Israel Ruled by More
Judges**
Judges 10-12

A. Philistine and Ammonite Oppression. Read Judges 10

1. Abimelech, one of the sons of Gideon, leads an uprising against Gideon's household by murdering the other 70 sons. Only Jotham escapes. Abimelech takes over and rules in Shechem. Later, the people of Shechem revolt and Abimelech attacks them. Ultimately, Abimelech is killed in battle. (Judges 9)

2. Which two judges rule after Gideon? What do we know about them?

3. What gods did the Israelites serve? How many of them were there?

4. Who did God allow to oppress the Israelites? On which side of the Jordan did this take place?

5. What deliverance had God previously given to the Israelites? From how many nations had He delivered them?

6. What did God suggest the Israelites do? Why did He change His mind?

B. Jephthah Leads Israel. Read Judges 11,12

1. How is Jephthah described? What had Jephthah been driven out? How did his credentials suit him for the need at hand?

2. What agreement did Jephthah reach with the Gileadites?

3. What appeals did Jephthah make to the Ammonites? Is this because he was fearful of fighting them?

4. What claim did the Ammonites make on the land? What appeal did Jephthah say they should make? To whom did Jephthah appeal for judgment? What vow did Jephthah make before going to battle? Was this wise? Who won the battle?

5. Who greeted Jephthah upon his return? Did Jephthah keep his promise? What did his daughter request?

6. There are two explanations given according to how Jephthah kept his vow. One suggests that he offered his daughter as a burnt offering. The other is that his daughter was not allowed to marry. Which explanation do you think is true? Give reasons for your answer.

7. What other judges ruled?

Thought Questions

1. Jephthah possessed some admirable qualities. Describe how he acted in each of the following circumstances. Determine how we could benefit from the same character trait.
 - Home situation that was not ideal (11:1-3)

 - His response to those who asked him to lead the Israelites despite their having spurned him when young (11:6-9)

 - His efforts in dealing with enemies (11:12-ff.)

 - His willingness to keep a promise (11:29-34)

2. Jephthah faced difficulty because of the vow he made. Was he wise to make a vow? Was he foolish to keep his vow? Are we to make vows today? Is it right to make a promise? What does Ecclesiastes 5:4,5 suggest? What is the best way to convince others that we will do what we say? Matthew 5:33-37

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read Judges 13
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Judges 14

Lesson 4
**Samson and the
Philistines**
Judges 13-14

A. Samson's Birth. Read Judges 13

1. Who was Samson's father? Where did he live? How did they learn of Samson's birth? Had they had any children previously?

2. When the angel appears and promises a son, what does he tell Manoah's wife about her diet? What does he tell her about what her son should do? Compare this with Numbers 6:1-21. What kind of vow is this called? What does it indicate?

3. What question did Manoah ask the angel when he appeared again? vs.12

4. What did Manoah offer? What happened to the angel?

5. What did God do for Samuel when he was born?

B. Samson Wants a Wife. Read Judges 14

1. What does Samson request of his parents? What is their response?

2. What was God doing? vs.4 What does this mean?

3. What did Samson do to the lion that attacked him? How was this possible?

4. What riddle did Samson propose to the Philistines? Why were they able to solve it?

Thought Questions

1. Samson was born to godly parents. They had been desiring a child, but were unable to have one. When the angel announced Samson's birth to them, they responded favorably.
 - What advantages was Samson given by being born to his parents? What did they do to help him?
 - Is there any advantage in being born to parents who are Christians? If so, what advantages do they provide? What does this suggest about the kind of home in which you would want to raise your children?
2. Despite his upbringing and God's attention to him, Samson evidences weakness when he reaches maturity.
 - What seemed to be the main attraction for Samson in choosing a wife? Did this seem a wise choice for him? Why or why not?
 - Is physical appeal important in choosing a mate? What importance should such an attraction have? What are some other characteristics one should look for when considering marriage?
 - Did Samson make a good choice in wanting this woman for his wife? Why or why not?
3. Samson had been chosen by God to deliver his people from the Philistines.
 - Did he make a good use of his time? Was there anything wrong in telling a riddle to the young men of the Philistines? What kind of pitfalls did this present to him?
 - As Christians, God calls us to live a life that is set apart from the way others live around us. Are there some activities that are not wrong that still would not be wise to engage in? Does it make any difference with whom we spend our time?
4. Does Samson always seem to be in control of his feeling and emotions? What might account for this?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read Judges 15
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Judges 16
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 5
**Samson Defeats the
Philistines**
Judges 15-16

A. Samson Attacks the Philistines. Read Judges 15

1. What happened to Samson's wife? What did he do as a result? What did the Philistines do?

2. What did the men of Judah do when the Philistines came for Samson? Why would they betray an Israelite? What did Samson do to the Philistines?

3. How long did Samson judge Israel?

B. Samson Reveals His Secret. Read Judges 16

1. Who next attracted Samson's affections? What did Samson do to the Philistines?

2. In what other woman did Samson have an interest? What three explanations did Samson give her about his strength?

3. How did Delilah finally convince Samson to reveal the secret of his strength? What happened to him? Was their real strength in his long hair? Why did he lose his strength?

4. How did Samson gain revenge on the Philistines?



ThoughtQuestions

1. Samson is a study in the subtle lure of temptation and its destructive power. Despite his physical strength, Samson was undone spiritually by giving into temptation.
 - Note the consequences of giving into temptation in the life of Samson: Did he become weaker or stronger by allowing himself to be tempted? Did he receive freedom or enslavement as a result of his flirtations?
 - Temptation can weaken us if we let it. What is temptation? Why might Samson have thought he could overcome temptation? What are some things that lull us into thinking temptation will not affect us?

2. We must work to counteract temptation in our life. There are some positive steps we can take to make sure it does not destroy us like it did Samson.
 - What are some steps we can take in order to avoid being tempted or in order to deny temptation?
 - Where is God's focus? (1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Peter 3:4) What does that suggest about our own character and that of those with whom we associate?
 - Is our use of leisure time important? Is it just our time to enjoy? What can easily happen if we do not use it wisely?
 - What mistake did Samson make in his choice of close companions? What can we do to avoid similar mistakes in our choice of companions?
 - Did Samson take his vow seriously? What is true of commitments we make? What commitment do we make to God?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read Ruth 1
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Ruth 2,3
- Day 3: Do Section C. Read Ruth 4

Lesson 6
The Story of Ruth
Ruth 1-4

A. Ruth Returns with Naomi. Read Ruth 1

1. Why did Naomi go to Moab? Would God have approved of this?
2. Name the other members of Naomi's family.
3. What prompted Naomi to return to Judah? What had happened to her family?
4. What counsel did Naomi give her daughters-in-law? Upon what did Ruth insist?
5. How did Naomi feel after her return to Judah?

B. Ruth Provides for Naomi. Read Ruth 2,3

1. What action did Ruth take in order to provide for herself and Naomi? Whom did she meet?
2. How did Boaz act toward Ruth? What was his relation to her? Why was he impressed with Ruth?
3. What instruction did Boaz give concerning Ruth?
4. Naomi next suggests to Ruth that she seek out Boaz as part of a local custom in order to gain security. When Boaz discovers her, what does he promise to do for her?

C. Boaz Redeems Naomi and Ruth's Inheritance. Read Ruth 4

1. Boaz attempts to "redeem" the inheritance of Ruth and Naomi according to laws laid down in the law, found in Leviticus 25. What does Boaz first offer to the nearest of kin?
2. When this near kinsman refuses to exercise his right, what action does Boaz take?
3. How does the marriage of Ruth and Boaz enter into the genealogy of the nation?



Thought Questions

1. Name some of the qualities revealed in Ruth's character. Think of a way we could apply each of these characteristics to our own circumstance.
2. This story of Ruth takes place at the time of Judges. During this time, Israel has been disobedient for the most part. Each man is doing what is right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25).
 - Is it more difficult to do right in a culture where everyone else is doing what they want to? What are some of challenges of living a godly life in this kind of environment?
 - Is it impossible to do what is right? Do we have an excuse in such a situation for doing what is wrong?
3. Look through this story again and note statements made about God and his concern for his children. Find at least three statements that indicate His interest. Determine how that characteristic of God is helpful to us today.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 1-2:11
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 2:12-36
- Day 3: do Section C. Read 1 Samuel 3

Lesson 7
**Samuel is
Dedicated to God**
1 Samuel 1-3

A. Hannah Dedicates Samuel to God. Read 1 Samuel 1 - 2:11

1. Why was Hannah unhappy and distraught?
2. Who were the priests at this time? Where did the worship of the people take place?
3. What vow did Hannah make to God? For what did Eli mistake her prayer?
4. What did Hannah do with Samuel once he was born?
5. Note the prayer of Hannah (2:1-10). To whom does she give praise for the birth of her child? What does she mention about Him in her praise?

B. Eli and His Household. Read 1 Samuel 2:12-36

1. Who were the two sons of Eli? What was their character? Of what excesses were they guilty?
2. What did Hannah bring to Samuel year after year? How did Samuel progress? Did Hannah have other children?
3. What appeal did Eli make to his sons? Did they listen?
4. How much honor did God claim Eli had given Him? What did he say would happen to his sons?

C. God Speaks to Samuel. Read 1 Samuel 3

1. What was true of God's revelation at this time? Why do you think this might be true?
2. What accounts for Samuel being so slow to realize that God is speaking to him?
3. What did he tell Samuel about the house of Eli? Why was Samuel reluctant to tell Eli?
4. Why was it important for Samuel to faithfully convey this message to Eli? What did Samuel become?



ThoughtQuestions

1. One of the contrasts in this section is the difference between Samuel and the sons of Eli.
 - Who had the most advantages concerning the way they were raised? Who should have been most effective in their service to God? What would you say was the main difference between the attitude of Samuel compared to that of Hophni and Phinehas?
 - How much does environment play a part in the way a child is raised? How much depends on the attitude of the child?
2. Even though Eli served as priest, he seems to have failed in raising his children.
 - What was his failure? Why does this seem strange, given the way he reacted to Hannah when she was praying? (1:12-18) What are some reasons Eli might have failed to demand more of his sons?
 - Should parents be strict or lenient? What kind of parent do you plan to be? Do you think it is right to punish children when they do not do what they are told?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 4
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 5
- Day 3: Do Section C. Read 1 Samuel 6-7:1

Lesson 8
The Ark is Captured
1 Samuel 4-6

A. The Ark is Taken from Israel. Read 1 Samuel 4

1. What was Samuel receiving from the Lord at this time?

2. What did the Israelites do after being defeated by the Philistines in battle? Why?

3. Who allowed the ark to be taken? How did the Philistines react when they heard the ark was being brought into battle? Why?

4. What happened to the ark? What happened to Hophni and Phinehas?

5. What facts were reported to Eli? How did he react?

6. What happened to the wife of Phinehas when she heard the news? What did she name her child? Why?

B. The Ark Among the Philistines. Read 1 Samuel 5

1. What happened to the ark when the Philistines set it in the house of Dagon? Who was Dagon?

2. Why was the ark passed from one Philistine city to the next? What did this represent on God's part?

C. The Ark is Returned to Israel. Read 1 Samuel 6-7:1

1. How long did the ark stay with the Philistines? Why did they return it?
2. Describe how the ark was taken back to the Israelites. Why did they do it this way?
3. Where was the ark placed after its return? Where had it been before it was captured?



ThoughtQuestions

1. The Israelites were shocked after being defeated by the Philistines in battle. They thought that by carrying the ark of the covenant with them into battle, God's presence would be with them and they would win a victory.
 - What mistake did they make as indicated by the statement of Phinehas' wife at the birth of her child? Do we ever make the same mistake?
 - It is easy for us to repeat this mistake by assuming that God's glory is with us. Can God's glory depart from us? Many believe that the United States is a Christian nation. Has God's glory departed from our country? Why or why not?
 - What are some ways we can make sure that God's glory does not depart: From our family? From the church? From our own character?
2. The Philistines seemed to have a respect for the ark. They were fearful upon hearing it would be brought to battle. Once God inflicted judgment on them, they sent it away. They had some apparent respect for Jehovah God, yet God still judged them. What were they lacking in their attitude toward God? Is it sufficient today for us or others to just have a respect for who God is? What more is involved? What should the Philistines have done? What should we do?

Lesson 9
Review of the Judges
Book of Judges

A. The Judges

1. Name from memory all the judges in the order they are mentioned.
2. Describe the spiritual cycle through which the Israelites continually went through the time of the judges. Find at least one place in Judges where this cycle is mentioned (5 steps).
3. How does the author of Judges describe the attitude of the people in this day?

B. Match the following names of peoples, places or events with their appropriate description.

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|--|----------------|
| 1. ____ Led Israel against Midian with 300 men | a. Deborah |
| 2. ____ Convinced Samson to reveal the secret of his strength | b. Jebrubbaal |
| 3. ____ Surviving son of 70 who were murdered | c. Sisera |
| 4. ____ Judged Israel seven years - had 30 sons and 30 daughters | d. Jabin |
| 5. ____ Made a rash vow to sacrifice to God | e. Ehud |
| 6. ____ Arose to judge Israel after Abimelech | f. Baal |
| 7. ____ Drove a tent pin through the head of Sisera | g. Nazarite |
| 8. ____ Fled from Barak and Deborah with his chariots and army | h. Delilah |
| 9. ____ Judged Israel - the younger brother of Caleb | i. Abimelech |
| 10. ____ Thrust a dagger into Eglon's belly | j. Barak |
| 11. ____ Judged Israel and led them in battle at Mt. Tabor | k. Manoah |
| 12. ____ Judged Israel - killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad | l. Jael |
| 13. ____ King of Canaan - Sisera was the commander of his army | m. Tolah |
| 14. ____ Another name for Gideon | n. Jephthah |
| 15. ____ Gideon's son who killed all his brothers except for one | o. Philistines |
| 16. ____ Judged Israel 22 years - had 30 sons who rode on 30 donkeys | p. Ibzan |
| 17. ____ Samson's father | q. Othniel |
| 18. ____ Vow taken by Samson's parents for Samson | r. Shamgar |
| 19. ____ Enemies of Israel during the time of Samson | s. Jotham |
| 20. ____ The altar destroyed by Gideon | t. Jair |



Thought Questions

1. Name three facts you did not know or did not remember about the Judges.

2. What are three spiritual principles you have learned from this book?

3. Name the five judges that receive particular attention.
 - Do you think the judges were basically good men or evil men?

 - Why do you think God chose them?

 - What qualities did they possess?

 - What weaknesses did they have?

 - Did the weaknesses outweigh the strengths? If so, what did that demonstrate to the people about God's power?

4. Try to find a New Testament passage where several of these judges are commended together in the same passage.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 7
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 8
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

Lesson 10
Israel
Demands a King
1 Samuel 7-8

A. Samuel Judges Israel. Read 1 Samuel 7

1. What four things did Samuel tell the Israelites to do? How did they respond?

2. Where did the Israelites gather? What did the Philistines do? Why do you think they did this (notice the location of Mizpah on a map)?

3. What did Israel request from Samuel? What did Samuel do? Did this have any military significance? Why was it important?

4. What was the outcome of the battle? What memorial did Samuel establish? What was the significance of the name?

5. What was true of the Philistines during the rest of the days Samuel judged Israel?

6. Describe the circuit Samuel traveled in judging Israel. Locate these places on a map.

B. Israel Desires a King. Read 1 Samuel 8

1. When Samuel became old, he appointed his sons to judge. Did this work out well? What did they do? Why did this make a difference in their ability to judge?
2. What request did the Israelites make of Samuel? How did Samuel respond? How did God respond?
3. What warning did Samuel give the people about having a king? What did he predict their response would be?
4. What was the Israelites final response? Why did they desire this?

Thought Questions

1. When Samuel established a memorial to God's help in the defeat of the Philistines, he called it "Ebenezer." The song "O Thou Fount of Every Blessing" in our songbook begins one verse with the words "Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come." Can you think of some specific ways in which God has allowed you to reach this point in your life? Has his help been important? Could you have done this on your own? Why is it important to raise our Ebenezer?
2. It is surprising to find that Samuel's sons were disobedient and dishonest, just as Eli's sons had been. Was this Samuel's fault? Why do people that are faithful Christians sometimes have children who do not end up being faithful? What are some lessons we can and need to learn from this?
3. Israel wanted a king like the nations around them. God objected, not so much because they wanted a king, but because they had rejected his rule. Think of some things we end up wanting because of the "nations" around us. Do these represent a rejection of God's rule on our part?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 9
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 10

Lesson 11
Saul Becomes King
1 Samuel 9-10

A. Samuel's Message to Saul. Read 1 Samuel 9

1. From what tribe did Saul come? What characteristics did he possess that commended him as king?
2. What was Saul doing when he met Samuel? Why did he decide to seek out Samuel?
3. What description or name had been given to Samuel? What does this indicate about Samuel and other men like him?
4. What do these verses suggest about the activity of Samuel as a judge over Israel?
5. Starting at vs.15, we are told what God had revealed to Samuel previously. What did he tell him would happen? What does this suggest about the sovereignty (complete control) of God?
6. What did Samuel tell Saul about his donkeys? What did he further reveal? How did Saul respond?
7. What opportunity did Samuel have to give more information to Saul about this choice?
9:24,27
8. What portion was reserved for Saul at the feast? Why?

B. Saul Proclaimed King. Read 1 Samuel 10

1. What significance did Samuel's pouring oil on Saul's head have?
2. Samuel goes on to describe three signs to Saul that would take place. What are they?
 - Donkeys
 - Three men
 - Group of prophets

What purpose did they serve for Saul?

3. In vs.9 we are told that God gave Saul another heart. According to vs.6, what was this? What purpose did this serve among the Israelites?
4. How much did Saul reveal to his uncle about his conversation with Samuel?
5. When Samuel calls the people together at Mizpah, what choice does he say they had made in asking God for a king?
6. What process of selection was used to pinpoint Saul? Where was he when they found him?



Thought Questions

1. How would Saul compare to leaders of today? Why would his height be important to the people? Is it bad to have these kind of characteristics? Why are they not as significant as some may think?
 - How important is our physical appearance? Do people make choices today based on how someone looks? Name some ways.
 - Is this what is most important? How important should it be?
2. The signs given to Saul confirmed the word of Samuel. Name some other instances in Bible history where signs or miracles confirmed that the spokesman was from God. Why is this necessary?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 11
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 12
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions

Lesson 12
Saul's Victory over the Ammonites
1 Samuel 11-12

A. Battle with the Ammonites. Read 1 Samuel 11

1. What did Nahash request? What was his condition of peace?
2. What answer did the men of Jabesh Gilead give?
3. How did Saul respond to this news? How did he urge the Israelites to take part in this battle?
4. Who did he include as a part of his call to battle?
4. How many people answered the call to fight?
5. How did the people feel at this point about having Saul as their king? Would this make it easier or harder to heed the warnings of Samuel about having a king?
6. What was involved on this occasion when Saul was officially coronated as their king? vs.15

B. Samuel Charges the People. Read 1 Samuel 12

1. What appeal did Samuel make to the people in vv.1-5?
2. How do the qualities of Samuel compare with those listed earlier concerning Saul (9:1-2)?

3. In vv.6-17, Samuel reviews the history through which the Israelites had gone. Who is most prominent in this description? How do you know?
4. Even though Israel had chosen a king of their own choosing, what two-fold promise is made concerning him? vv.14,15
5. What did the people go on to acknowledge about their desire to have a king? Do you think they really meant this?
6. What appeal did Samuel make? How did he show his concern for the people?

Thought Questions

1. During this period of selecting a king, Samuel says repeatedly that the people were acting against God. They even admit their sin in the matter. In view of this, why does God allow them to have a king?
 - Does God ever give us things we don't need when He knows it is not best for us?
 - What about our achievements or possessions? Are they necessarily an indication that God is pleased with us? How do we know if He is or isn't?
2. The Israelites seemed to continually try God's patience. When Samuel recounts their history, he describes various occasions where God responded to their cry for help, despite the fact they had been disobedient. What does this indicate His love for them? Did He excuse their sin? Does His reaction teach us about how God responds to our disobedience? Is He more patient with us?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Samuel 13
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read 1 Samuel 14
- Day 3: Do Section C. Read 1 Samuel 15

Lesson 13
Saul Disobeys
1 Samuel 13-15

A. Saul Offers A Sacrifice. Read 1 Samuel 13

1. How many men did Saul choose for himself? What did Jonathan do?

2. Where did Saul call the people together? What did the Philistines do? How well equipped were they?

3. What was the reaction of the Israelites to the Philistine build-up? What was Saul's reaction? What had Samuel told him to do? ch.10:8

4. How did Saul justify his actions to Samuel? How did Samuel respond?

5. What disadvantage did the Israelites have that helps to explain their fear of the Philistines?

B. Jonathan Attacks. Read 1 Samuel 14

1. How did Jonathan confront the Philistines? What did this show on his part?

2. What was Saul doing when he found the Philistines were in confusion? What did he do? What did the rest of the Israelites do? Who is given credit for the victory? Why?

3. What vow did Saul make? Who violated it? What was Saul's reaction? Why did he change his mind?

C. Saul and the Amalekites. Read 1 Samuel 15

1. What did Samuel instruct concerning the Amalekites? Did Saul obey?
2. What explanation did Saul offer when Samuel confronted him? How did he rationalize his actions?
3. To what did Samuel liken Saul's sin? What request did Saul make of Samuel? When he tore Samuel's robe, what did Samuel say God had done? What did Samuel do to Agag?

Thought Questions

1. These chapters expose some of the flaws in Saul's character. In chapter 13, he took his circumstances seriously, but failed to take God seriously. In chapter 14, he takes himself and his vow seriously, but fails to admit any wrong. In chapter 15, he takes the people seriously but ignores God in the process. We must guard against the same flaws.
 - Is it right to assume that if our character is strong, it will always stay that way? How do the small decisions we make affect our character over time?
 - If following God's directions put us under pressure, can we presume that such circumstances are exceptions to what he wants? Can you think of areas where we might be tempted to do this? (for instance, what advice does God give concerning marriage? What choices are we tempted to make?)
 - If we make an unwise decision and it jeopardizes others, what should we do? Why don't we do this more often?
 - Why does God consider some failure to carry out minor instructions as rebellion? What is so serious about it?
2. What kind of king did God desire when he suggests a man after his heart? 13:14
3. Was Saul sorry for his actions? 15:24 Is this the same as repentance?

Lesson 13

How The World Began

Genesis 1-4

