

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 5 June 2016 ..... 1Samuel 1-2 ..... Answered
- 2) 12 June ..... 1Samuel 3-4 ..... Called
- 3) 19 June ..... 1Samuel 5-7 ..... Worthy
- 4) 26 June ..... 1Samuel 8-11 ..... King?
- 5) **3 July ..... 1Samuel 12-14 ..... Feared**
- 6) 10 July ..... 1Samuel 15 ..... Judged
- 7) 17 July ..... 1Samuel 16 ..... Anointed
- 8) 24 July ..... 1Samuel 17 ..... Delivered
- 9) 31 July ..... 1Samuel 18-21 ..... Faithful
- 10) 7 August ..... 1Samuel 22-24 ..... Blinded
- 11) 14 August ..... 1Samuel 25 ..... Protected
- 12) 21 August ..... 1Samuel 26-29 ..... Respect
- 13) 28 August ..... 1Samuel 30-31 ..... Victory

**INTRODUCTION**

- Israel gets what they asked for – a King, which was not God's ideal blessing for them, at least at this time
- Samuel challenges Israel to serve the Lord with all their heart, even though they settled for God's 2nd best for them
- And we have one of the most doctrinally impactful passages in all of Scripture – "Your kingdom, Saul, could have lasted forever, if only you obeyed"

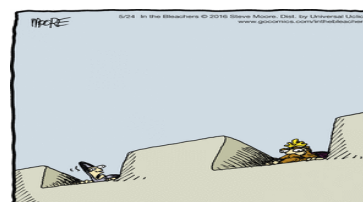
Passage	Comments
1Samuel 12:1-12	<p><b>Israel Settles for 2<sup>nd</sup> Best</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God wanted to bless His people with so much more, but they preferred to be blessed on their own terms                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ They wanted something tangible – a King</li> <li>♦ <b>When do we settle for something less than God's best?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <input type="checkbox"/> Every time we sin   <input type="checkbox"/> Anytime we pray amiss</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv1-5. Samuel did something odd. He asked if anyone could fault him and his credentials. The answer was no                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Therefore, Samuel earned the right to be heard</li> <li>♦ v7. Samuel said, "STAND STILL AND LISTEN UP!"</li> <li>♦ v13. "YOU HAVE REJECTED GOD, YOUR KING!"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Do people take us seriously when we speak wise counsel, or does our counsel fall on deaf ears because of a bad testimony? How do we fix a bad testimony?</li> </ul>
12:13-22	<p><b>But God is Still Willing to Bless if His People Obey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v13. God is the one who "set a king" over them                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Who sets our leaders over us? Do we get what we deserve? Or worse, or better than we deserve?</li> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> God is able to remove good leaders based on wickedness of the people. "[God will remove] all your shepherds... Then you will be ashamed and humiliated because of all your wickedness." .....<a href="#">Jer 22:22</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv14. God's blessings are conditional on obedience                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Yet, we do not need to be perfect for God to bless; He is willing to bless tho we have little love for Him</li> <li>♦ Jesus told Peter, though you may not love me with agape-type love, if you love me a little, feed my sheep (IOW, stay true and faithful).....<a href="#">John 21:16</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv15-22. "If you do not obey, I will be against you" – For the Jews, there was always a blessing &amp; a curse, since their covenant was tied to the Land of Israel                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ For us NT believers, we are blessed if we obey, but if we fail to obey, we do not fall under a curse. We lose a blessing and we usually reap what we sow</li> <li>♦ Worst case chastisement for NT believers is to be called home early (e.g., Ananias &amp; Sapphira, and Corinthians who violated the communion table), but chastisement of a believer is not a curse from God</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:23-25	<p><b>Powerful Principles to Live By</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v23a. "God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you" – Why would it be a sin for Samuel to cease praying for disobedient sinners? Is it a sin for us not to pray for others?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> Samuel's duty as a prophet/priest was to intercede for them (priestly function) and to convey God's word to them (prophetic function). So it would be a sin for him to stop interceding</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> Like a prophet/priest, we have been give the "ministry of reconciliation" (2Cor 5:18), therefore we have an obligation to pray for the lost to get saved and for the saved to mature in Christ. So let's not stop praying either for those in our path</li> <li>• v23b. "I will teach you the good and the right way" – Praying is only half the battle. We must also "DO" the work of the ministry, and not be hearers only ..... <a href="#">Jms 1:22</a></li> <li>• v24. Fear God, Serve Him in truth &amp; spirit (w/ all your heart) – WHY? Because of His goodness to us                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We love him, because he first loved us ..... <a href="#">1John 4:19</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v25. Warning – "If you continue doing wickedly, you will be utterly consumed!" – Was this curse only to the Jews, or is it also applicable for us today?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> Promises of blessings and cursings are tied to the land of Israel. This blessing/cursing for doing/not doing is not mentioned in the NT. Yes – God does bless faithfulness, and when disobedient, we reap what we sow. But NT saints are not under a Land covenant – hence no curses for not doing right, just lack of blessings and chastisement – not curses.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13:1-23	<p><b>Saul Collapses Under Pressure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes storms come into our lives. Like the disciples in the boat, do we lose our faith and panic, or do we wait on the Lord to arrive on His timetable? Or, do we call out to the Lord and "wake Him" to rescue us? Or, like Saul, do we take matters into our own hands?</li> <li>• vv8-12. Saul was under direct orders to wait 7 days for Samuel to arrive with God's solution – But Saul was impatient and did things his own way</li> <li>• vv13-14. "...for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever."                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Is the Lord conveying it could have been Saul's kingdom and not the Davidic kingdom which would last forever?</li> <li>♦ God, being omnipotent, omniscience, and sovereign could easily accomplish this without violating His character, though it would be interesting to see how God would have worked out how the scepter would not depart from Judah until the Messiah comes ..... <a href="#">Genesis 49:10</a></li> <li>♦ Supposedly, it would not have been any harder than if God had wiped out the Israelites in the dessert and raised up a greater nation from Moses' Aaronic loins as He proclaimed to do for him in <a href="#">Deuteronomy 9:14</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14:1-52	<p><b>Saul Wavered from being a Great King to being inept</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We begin to see some unraveling of Saul's capabilities</li> <li>• At times he "acted valiantly and defeated the Amalekites and delivered Israel"</li> <li>• Other times his thinking was irrational as he sought to slay his own son, Jonathan, for disobeying a rash command not to eat that day</li> <li>• <b>Consider this.</b> We have a sound mind when we seek to follow God in Truth and in Spirit (righteous heart) ... <a href="#">2Tim 1:7</a></li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- **Warning for us.** Be careful taking matters into our own hands. We can shortchange ourselves and our family for generations
- **Blessings for us.** Seek God early and often in truth and in spirit

**NEXT WEEK: 1Samuel 15.** Saul continues to do things his own way and disappoints both God and Samuel. When Saul sought forgiveness, why weren't all things forgiven, forgotten, and restored?



We're doomed,  
your majesty!  
Goliath got  
ejected from the  
battle for helmet-  
to-helmet contact.