

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	06 December. 2026.....	1Samuel 01-02.....	Prayer
2)	13 Dec.....	1Samuel 03-04.....	Calling
3)	20 Dec.....	Luke 02.....	(Christmas) Savior
4)	27 Dec.....	1Samuel 05-07.....	Supremacy
5)	03 January 2027.....	1Samuel 08-14.....	King Demanded
6)	10 Jan.....	1Samuel 15.....	Obedience
7)	17 Jan.....	Psalms 139.....	Value of Life
8)	24 Jan.....	1Samuel 16.....	Anointed
9)	31 Jan.....	1Samuel 17.....	Victory
10)	07 Feb.....	1Samuel 18-21.....	Friendship
11)	14 Feb.....	1Samuel 22-24.....	Respect
12)	21 Feb.....	1Samuel 25.....	Discernment
13)	28 Feb.....	1Samuel 26-31.....	Guidance

INTRODUCTION SAMUEL 8-11

- Samuel's wicked sons enticed Israel to ask for a king, instead of continuing with a line of judges. What should have been the right course of action for Israel to take?

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 8:1-3	How do Godly Parents Get Wicked Kids? - As godly as Samuel was, he apparently inherited some bad parenting skills from his mentor, Eli, or his sons were just "wicked from birth" Ps 58:3; Isaiah 48:8 Principles to Live by. Yes, godly parents can do everything right and still give birth to kids who grow up to be wicked. Examples: Adam/Eve → Cain; Hezekiah → Manasseh; Isaac/Rebekah → Esau - The best we can do is challenge, pray, and restrain the evil that is in their hearts through godly discipline ...and pray in line with 1John 5:16 "If anyone sees his child going the wrong direction, pray, and God is able to restore" – RLT (Rod's Living Translation) → Example: Billy Graham's son, Franklin Principles Not to Live by. Yes, saved parents can unintentionally lead their kids astray by poor parenting: - Little to no discipline, or wrong kind of discipline (overly harsh, and/or 'provoke to anger/frustration') - Little to no attention, love, admiration, affirmation - Yet, kids are still without excuse for their own sins
8:4-22	"We Want a King" - Why was it wrong, or sinful, for Israel to have a king? Consider this. It would be a lack of faith on their part – and whatever is not of faith is sin. They would prefer to have something tangible like a king with an army who could defend them, instead of a Judge whom God would raise up to first squash their disobedience before removing an oppressive invader - Also, Israel did not need a king to rally the troops to defend them against an invasion because God promised to drive out nations before them and protect them → If they diligently obeyed God's commandments. → In other words, God's protection is conditional "No man (nation) would covet (or invade) their land when the men go up 3x a year to appear before God to celebrate their feasts" Ex 34:24
9:1-27	Saul is Chosen as King - God is working providentially behind the scenes to guide Saul's footsteps to eventually meet with Samuel - v4. Saul had to wonder through many hills and valleys before being promoted. Since God is guiding each of our footsteps, learn to embrace, endure, and enjoy the hills and valleys we wonder through in the course of life.

Passage	Comments
	- vv20-21. Samuel told Saul "At this moment, Israel's future is in your hands" (Message Bible); and Saul basically responds, "I am a nobody from the smallest tribe in Israel. Why do you talk to me like this?" - Recall Judges 20, where the tribe of Benjamin was nearly wiped out for their immorality (600 men left) Grace of God is at work. Saul is picked not for his personal merit (his upbringing, his pedigree, his education) but on God's foreknowledge Rom 8:29 Man's will is at work. But Saul was not a robot. He could ride this train God was putting him on or fight it. He did a little bit of both as we will see.
10:1-16	Saul is Anointed as King - v1. Samuel anoints Saul and tells Him God has handpicked him for high honor - Anointing of oil adds a moment of significance, such as baptism and communion, through a formal practice and often a public consecration to God's service. - vv2-6. Samuel then conveys to Saul several things will happen to him on his way home to confirm his anointing (no chance for coincidences or happenstance): - He will first meet 2 men who will ask him a question; - He will then meet 3 men having goats, bread, wine; - He will then meet some prophesying prophets; and - The Holy Spirit will then come upon Saul, and he will prophesy and become a new/different person ("...in Christ we are a new creature", 2Cor 5:17) - God is not a god of chance. We can definitely know we have eternal life (1John 5:13), and we can know if we are even in God's will at any and every moment (1John 2:5) - vv7-16. Samuel basically told Saul, once he sees these signs of confirmation on his life, BE BOLD and ACT - Same with us...since we have God's confirmation on our lives, why aren't we BOLD in our walk at times? - How do we bolster our weak faith? - What more evidence do we need?
10:8	Saul is Told to be Obedient and Wait as King - Saul had one simple command – wait 7 days - We will see next later, Saul waited 6.99 days and then he took matters into his own hands & lost his kingdom Lesson to Learn. Never trifle with God. Either take God seriously or risk losing rewards, ruining your future for yourself and for your progeny, and even losing one's life. Consider Ananias & Sapphira; the Corinthian believers who abused the communion and died; and the churches in Revelation who lost their candlestick.



Parental Malpractice

Passage	Comments
Was Saul Saved?	The Debate Still Rages • Saul was possibly a saved believer: ♦ He heeded the words of Samuel some of the time ♦ The Holy Spirit fell on him and he prophesied like the other prophets, and became a different man ♦ Samuel appeared to him and said "tomorrow you will be with me" – possibly alluding to Heaven... ch 28:19 • Saul may have never placed his trust in God ♦ He directly disobeyed a direct order from God, to slay the Amalekites, men, women, children, animals ♦ He offered sacrifices in direct violation of God's Law ♦ He sought out a medium, and he swore an oath of safety to a medium, also in violation of the Law ♦ Saul sought to kill David (the type of Christ), refusing to recognize the Davidic covenant promises ♦ He also slew God's priests (not a light thing to do) ♦ He only sought forgiveness to redeem his reputation, not his standing before God and Samuel • Conclusion. We cannot tell the difference between an unbeliever and a backslidden believer – only God can. Therefore, we have to give Saul the benefit of doubt.
10:17-27	Saul Has Cold Feet and is Paraded as King • vv17-20. Samuel bluntly accused the Jews of rejecting God when they asked for a king. YET, God was willing to work with His people to still accomplish great things, though they asked for something other than God's best ♦ Principle to Live By. Yes, God can turn bad situations around (e.g., Woman at the well), BUT to receive God's best for each of us, never compromise • vv21-23. Saul turned coward and hid from the crowd, but days later he would be slaughtering the Ammonites ♦ Saul hid so well, God had to reveal where he was hiding. Any application here? God often steps in when our resources and talents are exhausted.
11:1-11	Saul Leads Like a King • vv1-5. Jabesh-Gilead was under attack, and they asked their new king for help. • vv6-11. God gets into the act and stirs up both the leaders and the people. Leaders cannot lead if there are no followers willing to follow. ♦ Church Application. We cannot take higher ground and accomplish great things for God's kingdom without leaders and followers working together.
11:12-15	Saul is Accepted as King and Rejoicing Begins • vv12-13. Saul acts as a responsible and merciful king by refusing to slay his political opponents, which was an unheard of practice in those days. • vv14-15. All Israel "rejoiced greatly". If anyone has reason to rejoice, it's believers, especially if we are in a right relationship with God. • Here are just a few verses on REJOICING found in the NT. If we are not seen as joyful, we need to fix things. ♦ Luke 6:23 Leap for joy, for your reward is great in heaven ♦ Luke 10:20 Rejoice for your names are recorded in heaven ♦ Acts 5:41 They rejoiced that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name ♦ Acts 13:52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. ♦ Rom 12:12 We are to rejoice in hope, persevere in tribulation, and be devoted to prayer ♦ Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice ♦ Rom 14:17 The kingdom of God is not in wealth, but in righteousness & peace & joy in the Holy Spirit.

Passage	Comments
	♦ Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing ♦ 2Cor 6:10 ...as sorrowful yet always rejoicing ♦ 2Cor 8:2 in great affliction they abundantly rejoiced ♦ 2Cor 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice ♦ Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ♦ Php 1:4 ...always offering prayer with joy ♦ Php 2:18 ... share your joy ♦ Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always ♦ Col 1:24 Now I rejoice in sufferings ♦ 1Thes 5:16 Rejoice always ♦ James 1:2 Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials ♦ 1Peter 1:8 you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible ♦ 1Peter 4:13 ...when you suffer for Christ, keep on rejoicing ♦ Rev 12:11-12 ...and they did not love their life even when faced with death. For this reason, rejoice! ♦ Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him
What does Joy and Rejoicing Look Like?	• It could involve laughing, leaping, dancing, and even fist-pumping, but in all cases, joy comes with a smile in one's heart, and often on their face. • Christians should be noted with a joyful and hopeful disposition and possibly with a smile on their face, even while going through persecution, turmoil, and loss.

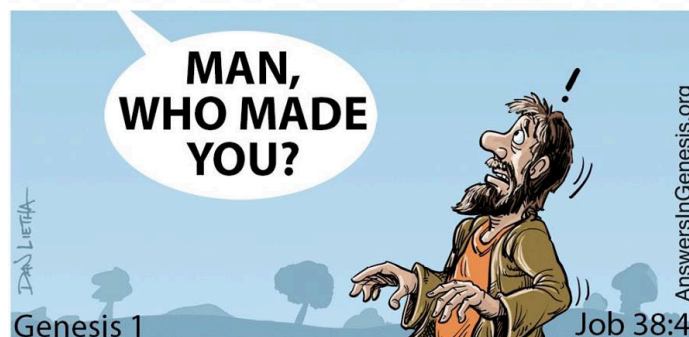
CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Israel's right course of action was not to ask for a king but to stay in obedience to God, then God would be responsible to protect and prosper them
 - ♦ We have the same choice today – Do we first seek God's kingdom and His righteousness for all things to work out to our good, or do we want to do things our own way and wonder why God is not blessing us & meeting our needs as promised?
- Be careful what you ask for...you might get it, along with leanness to your soul..... **Ps 106:15**

NEXT: 1Samuel 12-14. Israel gets what they asked for – a King. Samuel challenges Israel to serve the Lord with all their heart. And we have one of the most doctrinally impactful passages in all of Scripture – "Your kingdom, Saul, could have lasted forever, if only you had obeyed."

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



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 SAMUEL 12-14

- 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	Israel Settles for 2nd Best - God wanted to bless His people with so much more, but they preferred to be blessed on their own terms - They wanted something tangible – a King - When do we settle for something less than God's best? ☐ Every time we sin? ☐ Anytime we pray amiss? - vv1-5. Samuel did something odd. He asked if anyone could fault him and his credentials. The answer was no. - Therefore, Samuel earned the right to be heard - v7. Samuel said, “STAND STILL AND LISTEN UP!” - v13. “YOU HAVE REJECTED GOD, YOUR KING!” - 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?
12:13-22	But God is Still Willing to Bless if His People Obey - v13. God is the one who “set a king” over them - Who sets our leaders over us? Do we get what we deserve? Or worse, or better than we deserve? - Consider this. 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.” Jer 22:22 - vv14. God's blessings are conditional on obedience - Yet, we do not need to be perfect for God to bless; He is willing to bless though we have little love for Him - 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) John 21:16 - vv15-22. “If you do not obey, I will be against you” – For the Jews, there was always a blessing & a curse, since their covenant was tied to the Land of Israel - 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 or don't sow. - Worst case chastisement for NT believers is to be called home early (e.g., Ananias & Sapphira, and Corinthians who violated the communion table), but chastisement of a believer is not a curse from God.
12:23-25	Powerful Principles to Live By - 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? - Consider this. 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

Passage	Comments
	- Consider this. Like a prophet/priest, we have been given 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 - 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..... James 1:22 - v24. Fear God, Serve Him in truth & spirit (w/ all your heart) – WHY? Because of His goodness to us - We love him, because he first loved us 1John 4:19 - 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? - Consider this. 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.
13:1-23	Saul Collapses Under Pressure - 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? - 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. - vv13-14. “...for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.” - Is the Lord conveying it could have been Saul's kingdom and not the Davidic kingdom which would last forever? - 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..... Genesis 49:10 - 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 Deuteronomy 9:14.
14:1-52	Saul Wavered from being a Great King to being Inept - We begin to see some unraveling of Saul's capabilities - At times he “acted valiantly and defeated the Amalekites and delivered Israel” - 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. - Consider this. We have a sound mind when we seek to follow God in Truth and in Spirit (righteous heart) ... 2Tim 1:7

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?

