

OT-OV

Lesson 81

1. Last week we began a study of the book of 1st Samuel. I am going to review some of that learned and then we will pick up with new material on page two.

2. First Samuel Chapters 1-24 probably were written by Samuel and Chapters 25-31 were most likely written by Nathan. The book was written around 1020 to 950 B.C.

3. The Book of 1st Samuel is a story of Israel's rejection of God, His prophet and his Theocratic system and their selection of a King with its dire consequences.

4. The best way to study the Book is to review the Doctrine of Samuel.

4.1 Samuel was one of the greatest leaders of Israel. (2Ch 35:18; Psa 99:6; Jer 15:1; Acts 3:24; and Heb 11:32)

4.2 Samuel came to Israel in one of her darkest hours. The Philistines, who for a long time had menaced the Israelites, were threatening to engulf them.

4.3 A Jewish lady in distress by the name of Hannah is used of the Lord to deliver Israel. Her distress relates to her barren condition so she beseeches the Lord. He gave her a child and she names him Samuel and then gives him to Eli the High Priest for training. 1Sa 1:21-22

4.4 This son became Samuel the king maker, the last of the judges, and the first of the major prophets after Moses.

4.5 From early childhood he ministered in the tabernacle as a protege of the old priest Eli. 1Sa 2:18

4.6 It was a time of spiritual decline in the nation: "word from the Lord was rare in those days." (1Sa 3:1)

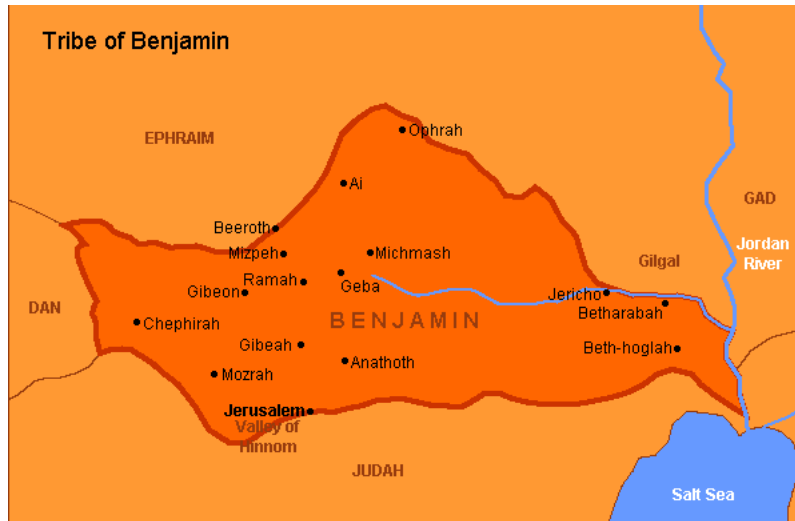
4.7 But the Bible says that "the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the Word of the Lord." "And the word of Samuel came to all Israel." (1Sa 3:21b-4:1a)

4.8 The theocracy worked as God would have it, for Israel was the theocratic ideal; only God was king and His will was communicated to the people through the prophets and priests. Exo 28:30

4.9 When Israel misused the ark of God by taking it into battle for protection, God showed His displeasure by delivering them and the ark over to the Philistines.

4.10 Samuel's mentor Eli proved too old to endure the shock of this tragic news. The capture of the ark meant that God had forsaken Shiloh (Psa 78:60-61; Jer 7:12-14; and 26:6-9), and Samuel was left without a place to minister.

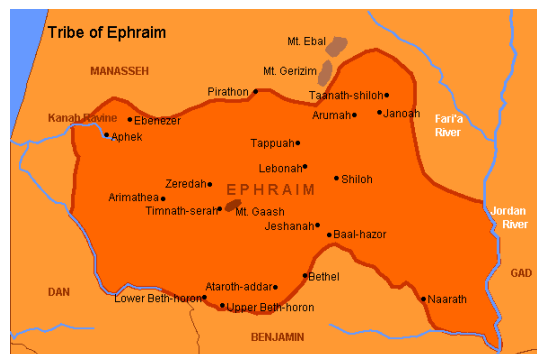
4.11 He returned to Ramah his home, where he built an altar and judged Israel from there, making a regular yearly circuit of towns near Ramah, a city some eight miles north of Jerusalem. (1Sa 7:15-17)



4.12 Samuel's task was the reviving of true worship in Israel. He besought the people to put away the images of the Canaanite deities Baal and Ashtoreth (Ashtarte) and to serve only the Lord.

4.13 At a general convocation at Mizpeh, one of the circuit towns, Samuel preached and prayed for the people. (1Sa 7:17)

4.14 This resulted in a spirit of repentance, renewed trust in the Lord, and consequent victory over the Philistines at a place called Ebenezer, "the stone of help," for the people said, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." (1Sa 7:9-12).



4.15 After years of faithful administration of the law and giving of the word of the Lord, Samuel failed in the same way Eli had failed.

4.16 His sons "walked not in his ways," but took bribes and perverted judgment.
1Sa 8:3

4.17 Although God forced the Philistines to abandon the ark (1Sa 5-6), it nevertheless remained for 20 years in Abinadab's house in apparent disuse.

1Sa 5:2 Then they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon.

1Sa 5:3 When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place.

1Sa 5:4 But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained.

1Sa 5:5 That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold.

1Sa 5:6 The LORD'S hand was heavy upon the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation upon them and afflicted them with tumors.

4.18 With no possible successor to Samuel and with no central shrine for worship, the Israelites found themselves increasingly at the mercy of the Philistines.

4.19 Feeling their need for strong leadership and copying the nations about them, they clamored for a king.

4.20 Moses had warned them of the pitfall of having a king (Deu 17:14), for it went against the theocratic ideal that only the Lord should lead. (1Sa 8:7).

Deu 17:14 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,"

1Sa 8:7 And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

4.21 However, under pressure of the times the people forced a reluctant Samuel to find a king.

4.21.1 Before privately anointing Saul first in Ramah (1Sa 9:1-10:6), Samuel preached a sermon of warning; but it fell on deaf ears (1Sa 8:9-22).

1Sa 9:17 When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people ..."

1Sa 9:21 Saul answered, "But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me ..."

1Sa 9:25 After they came down from the high place to the town, Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house.

1Sa 9:26 They rose about daybreak and Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Get ready, and I will send you on your way." When Saul got ready, he and Samuel went outside together.

1Sa 9:27 As they were going down to the edge of the town, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us"-- and the servant did so--" but you stay here awhile, so that I may give you a message from God."

1Sa 10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you leader over his inheritance ...

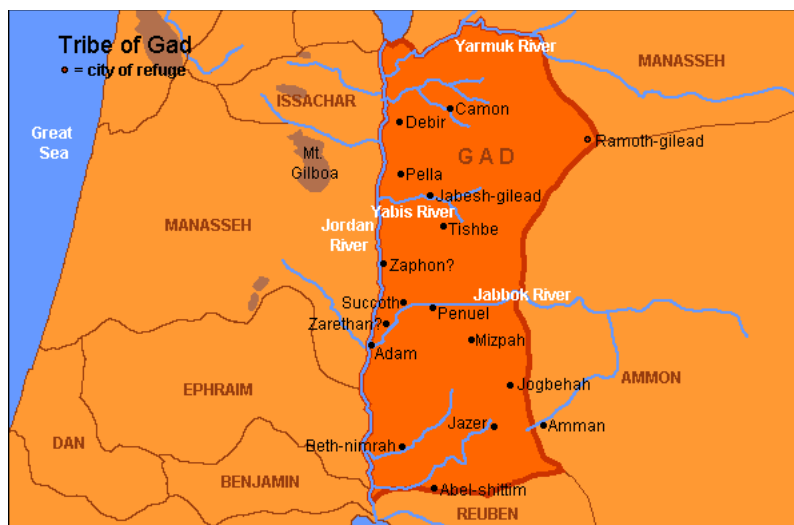
1Sa 10:6 The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.

1Sa 10:7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you ...

1Sa 10:9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.

1Sa 10:10 When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.

4.22 Saul proved that he had charismatic gifts for leadership when he responded to the plight of the people of Jabesh-gilead.



1Sa 11:1 Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you."

1Sa 11:2 But Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel."

1Sa 11:3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you."

1Sa 11:4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud.

1Sa 11:5 Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, "What is wrong with the people? Why are they weeping?" Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.

1Sa 11:6 When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger.

1Sa 11:7 He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel." Then the terror of the LORD fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.

1Sa 11:8 When Saul mustered them at Bezek (a town in Ephraim, about 13 miles north, northeast of Shechem), the men of Israel numbered three hundred thousand and the men of Judah thirty thousand ...

1Sa 11:11 The next day Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

4.23 Saul was an attractive man in appearance in his humility and in courage.

4.24 Samuel had the Lord's leading in choosing this man (1Sa 9:17).

1Sa 9:17 When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people."

4.25 Samuel therefore called the people of Mizpeh again and publicly announced the anointing (1Sa 10:17-24).

1Sa 10:17 Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the LORD at Mizpah

1Sa 10:18 and said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.'

1Sa 10:19 But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your calamities and distresses. And you have said, 'No, set a king over us.' So now present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and clans."

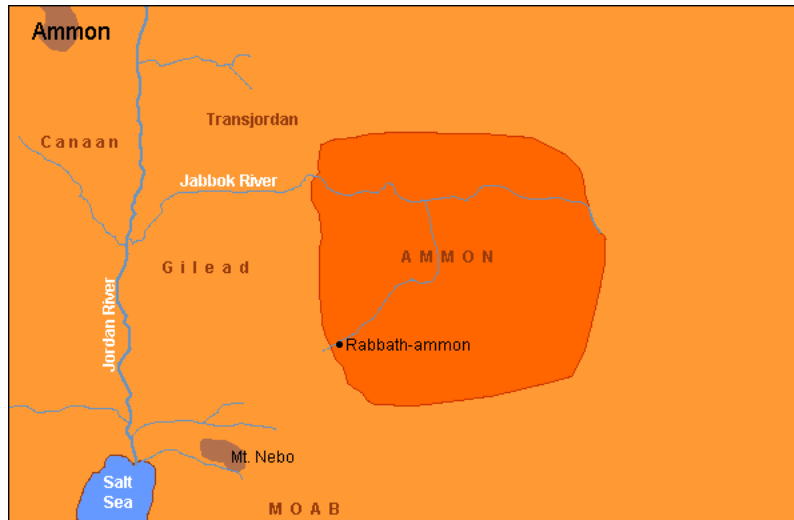
1Sa 10:20 When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.

1Sa 10:21 Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.

1Sa 10:22 So they inquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD said, "Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage."

1Sa 10:23 They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others.

1Sa 10:24 Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!"



4.26 A formal coronation service was held at Gilgal.

1Sa 11:15 So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the LORD. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the LORD, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.

4.27 The long sermon of 1st Samuel chapter 12 seems to be proof that in all this Samuel still had misgivings.

4.28 Here he testifies of his own integrity, and again reproves the people for wanting a king. His moving conclusion is, "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." (1Sa 12:23)

1Sa 12:23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.

1Sa 12:24 But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

1Sa 12:25 Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will be swept away."

4.29 Saul usurped the function of the priesthood (1Sa 13:4-15), and in the holy war against the Amalekites he violated the Lord's instructions concerning King Agag (1Sa 15:8-35) and consequently was consigned to utter destruction.

1Sa 13:4 So all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become a stench to the Philistines." And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

1Sa 13:5 The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Micmash, a city located about seven miles north of Jerusalem.

1Sa 13:6 When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns.

1Sa 13:7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.

1Sa 13:8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter.

1Sa 13:9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering.

1Sa 13:10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

1Sa 13:11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash,

1Sa 13:12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD'S favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

1Sa 13:13 "You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.

1Sa 13:14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD'S command."

1Sa 13:15 Then Samuel left Gilgal and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin, and Saul counted the men who were with him. They numbered about six hundred.

1Sa 15:8 He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword.

1Sa 15:9 But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs--everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

1Sa 15:10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel:

1Sa 15:11 "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

1Sa 15:12 Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal."

1Sa 15:13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD'S instructions."

1Sa 15:14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

1Sa 15:15 Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest ...

1Sa 15:18 Samuel said "the Lord sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out."

1Sa 15:19 Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"

1Sa 15:20 "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.

1Sa 15:21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

1Sa 15:22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king ...

1Sa 15:32 Then Samuel said, "Bring me Agag king of the Amalekites." Agag came to him confidently, thinking, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

1Sa 15:33 But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so will your mother be childless among women." And Samuel put Agag to death before the LORD at Gilgal.

1Sa 15:34 Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul.

1Sa 15:35 Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.

End Lesson