

## Episode #608 Judges 45 – The First King

I. In the book of Judges, we have a brief record of the early history (the first centuries) of the history of the land of Israel. We see the leaders God chose, judges, who ruled under Jehovah, the King. Through the lives and work of these judges, we can learn about God's works and ways.

II. Samuel was the last and, in some ways, the greatest of the judges. The people, afraid of the Ammonites, rejected him as judge and demanded a human king to be set over them, when God was already their king! A tall and handsome man named Saul came to Samuel and the old judge secretly anointed him as the next king. Then, Samuel called all Israel together to reveal the king the Lord had chosen. They went through the tribes, probably by Urim and Thummim, until God's choice was picked. Today we will learn about the career of this new king.

III. I Samuel 10:17-27. Saul is proclaimed king.

- A. I Samuel 10:23-24. Saul is brought before the people of Israel and they see his kingly appearance and hail him as king.
- B. I Samuel 10:25. Samuel follows the instructions for kings written in Deuteronomy 17:14-20, having Saul write out for himself the laws that shall govern him.
- C. I Samuel 10:26. Saul goes home, and some men whose hearts God touched went with him. Others, though, scoffed at him as king, but Saul did not answer them now.

IV. I Samuel 11:1-15. Saul confirmed as king.

- A. I Samuel 11:1-11. Saul gets the great victory over Ammon that the people wanted from a king. Yet he does it with the Spirit of God. It was the true King Who saved the people, not the king they desired!
- B. I Samuel 11:12-13. The people want revenge on the scoffers, but Saul nobly refuses.
- C. I Samuel 11:14-15. Saul is confirmed as king by all the people.

V. I Samuel 12:1-25. The people finally realize their sin.

- A. I Samuel 12:1-5. Samuel pleads with the people. What injustice has he done that they have rejected his leadership? The people testify before Jehovah and Saul that he has done nothing.
- B. I Samuel 12:6-11. Samuel reviews the history of Israel. How they were slaves in Egypt and Yahweh rescued them. How when they forgot Yahweh He gave them into the hands of their enemies, but when they admitted their sin He sent the judges to deliver them.
- C. I Samuel 12:12. Yet when they felt threatened by Nahash the Ammonite they forgot all this history and demanded a human king to save them rather than the LORD!
- D. I Samuel 12:13-15. Jehovah gave them the king they asked for. If they serve and obey Him, they and their king, He will preserve them. If they rebel, however, He will be against them, just as it has been all through the time of the judges. Having a king will make no difference!
- E. I Samuel 12:16-18. It was unheard of to have rain during wheat harvest. To show them how wicked asking for a human king was and rejecting Yahweh as their King, He will send a thunderstorm, which He did.
- F. I Samuel 12:19-25. The people finally realize their sin. They ask Samuel to pray for them that they will not die. Samuel promises they will not if they serve the LORD. Samuel will not be so sinful as to stop praying for them. But they must fear the LORD, or they will be swept away!

VI. I Samuel 13:1-23. Saul fails to obey Samuel's urgent instructions.

- A. I Samuel 13:1. Saul one year old? This was the “new Saul,” I Samuel 10:6, 9. He was one year old when he became king, but he only lived two years before the old Saul came back to the fore and the “new Saul” never reappeared.
- B. I Samuel 13:2-4. Jonathan Saul’s son provokes the inevitable war with the Philistines.
- C. I Samuel 13:5-8. Saul assembles his army at Gilgal and waits for Samuel seven days. These were his important instructions back in I Samuel 10:8. This was the great test to see if Saul was worthy of the kingship! Would he pass as a man of faith?

VII. Samuel was the last and greatest judge, but the people did not trust the LORD’s protection through him and demanded a human king. God chose a king from the unlikely tribe of Benjamin: the striking Saul. Samuel revealed this choice, but many were at first skeptical. But when Saul won the victory over Ammon they desired, they were all for him. But Samuel revealed to them how wicked their actions had been, and the people finally got it. Saul had important instructions from Samuel to obey. Will we look to and obey God in our own trying and sometimes frightening circumstances?