

**"The First Mission Journey Continues"**

**Part 3**

**Acts 13:13-14:28**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study we were looking at Paul's message that he preached in the synagogue at Antioch. In the sermon he reminded his audience of the history of Israel and he started with the Exodus from Egypt. Paul spoke of God's toleration of the sinful ways of the Israelites as they made their way through the wilderness for 40 years. Paul then summarized the time in Egypt, the time in the wilderness, the conquering of the land of Canaan, right through to the days of Samuel in one verse.

**Notice Acts 13:20**

The 450 years here were 400 years in Egypt, 40 years in the wilderness and 10 years under Joshua conquering the land. We then looked at Israel's desire for a king which Paul spoke of.

**Notice Acts 13:21**

This is the verse we focused upon last week. Israel wanted to be like all the other nations and they wanted a king to rule over them. In their request for a king, they were rejecting God as their King. God then warned them of what the king would do and how he would treat them but they had their hearts set on a king and they ignored the warning. The king they received was Saul and he reigned over them for 40 years.

Since we were looking at Israel's desire for a king, and Paul mention of Saul, I want to look at king Saul and see some lessons from his life. Mainly I want to look at 4 tragic sins he committed as Israel's king. Three of these sins were the reasons why no descendant of Saul ever sat on the throne of Israel. God would cut off his house so that he would never become the head of a royal dynasty.

**"Saul's 4 Tragic Sins"**

**1. The sin of presumption.**

In 1 Samuel 13 Saul and his army were gathered at Gilgal waiting on the arrival of Samuel to offer sacrifices before they go into battle. Saul became impatient and proceeded to offer the sacrifice himself.

**1 Samuel 13:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

<sup>9</sup> And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

<sup>10</sup> And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

<sup>11</sup> And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

<sup>12</sup> Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

Saul had been instructed two years before this.

### **1 Samuel 10:8**

<sup>8</sup> And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

We need to notice that there is no repentance but only excuses. Saul crossed the line when he as the king stepped into the position of priest. These two offices were never to mix. Let us notice the consequences of his actions.

### **1 Samuel 13:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

<sup>14</sup> But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

Let me give you some food for thought here. Verse 14 points to David and this prophecy by Samuel was given 8 years before David was born!

### **2. The sin of disobedience.**

The second tragic sin of Saul is found in 1 Samuel 15 but before we look at it let us notice the background.

**Deuteronomy 25:19**

*<sup>19</sup> Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.*

This was prophetic and the task of carrying this out fell upon the shoulders of Saul.

**1 Samuel 15:1-3, 8-9**

*Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.*

*<sup>2</sup> Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.*

*<sup>3</sup> Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.*

*<sup>8</sup> And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.*

*<sup>9</sup> But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.*

Saul refused to be obedient to the Word of God. Notice the Word from the Lord.

**1 Samuel 15:10-11, 14-22**

*<sup>10</sup> Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,*

*<sup>11</sup> It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.*

*<sup>14</sup> And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?*

<sup>15</sup> And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

<sup>16</sup> Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

<sup>17</sup> And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

<sup>19</sup> Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup> And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

<sup>21</sup> But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

<sup>22</sup> And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

<sup>23</sup> For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

### 3. The sin of murder.

Let me give you the background for this sin. David is now in the picture and Saul desires to kill him and is hunting him. David then came to Nob.

#### 1 Samuel 21:1

*Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee?*

While David was there Ahimelech gave him food and the sword of Goliath. There was present that day one of the servants of Saul who witnessed all of this.

**1 Samuel 21:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

<sup>7</sup> Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul.

<sup>8</sup> And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

<sup>9</sup> And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.

Doeg carried this information back to Saul.

**1 Samuel 22:9-11, 13-18**

<sup>9</sup> Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

<sup>10</sup> And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

<sup>11</sup> Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

<sup>13</sup> And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

<sup>14</sup> Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

<sup>15</sup> Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

<sup>16</sup> And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house.

<sup>17</sup> And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD: because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.

Saul had 85 priests put to death that day. This was the third tragic sin.

#### 4. The sin with the witch at Endor.

##### 1 Samuel 28:5-7, 11, 16-19

<sup>5</sup> And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

<sup>6</sup> And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

<sup>7</sup> Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

<sup>11</sup> Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

<sup>16</sup> Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?

<sup>17</sup> And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David:

<sup>18</sup> Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day.

<sup>19</sup> Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and **to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me:** the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

**Conclusion:** This man had so much potential and he sinned it all away.