

Focus on Saul

❖ His rise to kingship:

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." (1 Samuel 8:4-5)

Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." (1 Samuel 8:19-20)

❖ His description:

And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. (1 Samuel 9:2)

❖ His two tests

(a) **1 Samuel 13:8-14**

(b) **1 Samuel 15**

*"Has 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 heed than the fat of rams.
For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
He also has rejected you from being king."
1 Samuel 15:22-23*

❖ His disappointing end

Rejected, turned from bad to worse, and finally killed himself!

Focus on David

❖ Scripture's assessment of him:

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

Cf. **Acts 13:22** -- ... a man after God's own heart

❖ Examples of exemplary conduct:

Towards Saul: **1 Samuel 26:1-11**

Towards Mephibosheth: **2 Samuel 9**

❖ The high point of his life and reign: **2 Samuel 7**

❖ The low point of his life and reign: **2 Samuel 11, 12**

Purpose:

- The critical place of our heart in our religion
- The absolute need of Jesus to be our king

Homework

Choose a key verse/passage from Samuel, write it down (below) and memorize it: