

## **Saul: From Promise to Problems!**

KINGMAKER, Pt. 7

1 Samuel 9-15

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**Proverbs 14:11**, *The HOUSE of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish.*

**Proverbs 14:34**, *Righteousness exalts a NATION, but sin condemns any people.*

**Proverbs 24:16**, *for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.*

**1 Samuel 9:1**, *There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bekorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin. 2 Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else.*

**1 Samuel 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." 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." ... 6 When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he burned with anger. 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 came out together as one.*

**1 Samuel 15:10**, *Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: 11 "I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions."*

**Deuteronomy 17:18**, *When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. 19 It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees 20 and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law to the right or to the left.*

### **What Were the Root Causes of Saul's Problems?**

#### **1) Saul Thought Partial Obedience Was OBEDIENCE**

**1 Samuel 15:2**, *This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'" ... 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.*

**1 Samuel 15:13**, *When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions." 14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"*

#### **2) Saul Blamed Others for His FAILURES**

**1 Samuel 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." ... 19 Why did you not obey*

*the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"*

### 3) Saul Was Filled With PRIDE

*1 Samuel 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."*

*Proverbs 11:2, When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*

### 4) Saul Did Not Lead With WISDOM

*1 Samuel 14:44, Saul said, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you do not die, Jonathan." **45** But the men said to Saul, "Should Jonathan die—he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the LORD lives, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he did this today with God's help." So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death.*

*1 Samuel 22:17, Then the king ordered the guards at his side: "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me." But the king's officials were unwilling to raise a hand to strike the priests of the LORD.*

### 5) Saul Preferred Praise From Men Over the Approval of GOD

*1 Samuel 15:30, Saul replied, "I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God."*

### 6) Saul Did Not Control His EMOTIONS

*1 Samuel 18:10, ... while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand **11** and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. **12** Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul.*

*1 Samuel 20:30, Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?"*

### 7) Saul Was Jealous of the Successes of OTHERS

*1 Samuel 18:5, Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well. **6** When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. **7** As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." **8** Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" **9** And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.*