

# The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 12

## Saul's Kingdom Established

We have seen Saul chosen before the people to come king, but he returned back to his home and former life. Now we will see rise to the forefront as leader and his position solidified.

### **29. Saul vs. the Ammonites - I Samuel 11:1-11**

- Nahash - means "serpent".
- Ammonites - Descendent of Lot, see Genesis 19:37-38. Lived in a region east of the Jordan River. An old foe of Israel, even blocking Israel's entrance into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 23:3-4)
- Jabeshgilead - believed to be on the east bank of the Jordan River.
- vs. 2 - Why their right eyes? The general belief is that this made him unfit for battle, plus it would shame those who did not come to their rescue.
- vs. 5 - note that Saul has carried on his life as if not anointed king.
- vs. 6 - the Spirit of God came upon Saul - variations of this phrase appear in the Old Testament. It is important to remember that saints at this time did not have the same relationship or access to the Spirit that we have today.
- vs. 7 - You think politicians are heavy-handed today?
- Bezek - means "lightning". Probably somewhere along the Jordan near its middle, west of Jabeshgilead.
- vs. 10 - The men of Jabesh act this way so Nahash will be caught off guard.
- vs. 11 - the attack began before dawn and lasted well into the afternoon.

### **30. The Kingdom is Renewed - I Samuel 11:12-15**

- vs. 12 - Looks like everyone is on Saul's bandwagon now!
- Why did this have to take place? Probably because now the people fully accepted Saul as their king.

### **31. Samuel's Address to the People - I Samuel 12:1-25**

- With the rise of the monarchy, Samuel takes a lesser role and prophets tend to be more messenger than leader from this point forward.
- The general message here is that Israel must continue to follow and trust God and not the human king they demanded.
- vs. 3-5 - note Samuel's testimony
- vs. 6-11 - History lesson time!
- vs. 12-13 - Once again, Samuel reminds them that they rejected God in favor of an earthly king.
- vs. 14-15 - compare to II Chronicles 7:14
- vs. 17 - wheat harvest - June-July
- vs. 18 - a storm during this time of year was very unusual, similar to storms in the middle of a Texas summer.
- vs. 23 - I love this verse!