

Royal Lessons for Life

Saul

Series Introduction

- There are 43 different rulers that led the nation of Israel: 3 in the united kingdom and 40 in the divided.
- In this series, we will do broad overviews of these rulers and find practical lessons for us today.
- The best teacher is experience, but the next best teacher is the observation of the experiences of others.

Saul's Biography

- Saul is born around 1135 B.C., takes the throne at age 40 in 1095, and rules for 40 years – Acts 13:21
- Saul is perhaps the most unlikely king: he was not born a prince and he did not seek the throne.
 - He was from the tribe of Benjamin, a weak and small tribe that had just been decimated in civil war – Judges 19-21
 - He was reluctant to accept the responsibility – I Samuel 10:1-16, 20-23
 - The one thing Saul had going for him is that he *looked* like a king – I Samuel 9:2, 10:23
- Saul starts well, with an early victory over the Ammonites at Jabesh-Gilead – I Samuel 11
- The rest of Saul's reign is marked by indecision, impatience, and insecurity.
 - To these is added at times a murderous rage – I Samuel 18:11, 19:10, 22:16,
- I do think he deserves some credit. He did establish a stable government and kept Israel's enemies largely in check. See David's lament in II Samuel 1
- Saul commits three sins that lead to his forfeiting his kingdom, dynasty, and life:
 - When he did not wait for Samuel and offered sacrifices – I Samuel 13:13
 - When he did not destroy the Amalekites – I Samuel 15:26
 - When he consulted the witch at Endor – I Samuel 28:17-19

Lessons from the Life of Saul

- Saul began his reign in humility but fell in pride – Proverbs 16:18
- Saul proved that incomplete obedience is disobedience – I Samuel 15:23
- Saul's actions doomed his family and dynasty – Numbers 14:18
- Saul proved that greatness cannot be sustained without integrity – Proverbs 11:3