**Session 11: Royal Kingdom, Part I**

*(This is the purple period=royalty)*

Introduced to Saul, David and Solomon (1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11)

**Review**: started out in Genesis; we saw a disruption in the relationship with Adam & Eve with God; something happened when A&E pushed God’s rule and reign away; He is ousted from being the King.

Genesis 3:15 is the plan of God to reintroduce His kingship and reign in our lives that liberates, that sets us free in order to become what God has created us to be. Will you recognize His kingship.

In this purple people, the reign of God is introduced through the early kingdom of David. God promised Abraham Land (fulfilled in the Green period) and a Royal Kingdom would be established (this is in our present lesson); the final promise was a “Worldwide blessing” which will come to us in Jesus Christ.

**Story of Samuel**: the 13th judge who will usher in the first and second King of Israel;

**Chapter 1:13-15**: Elkinah (with two wives one of which is Hannah) who has a desire for children; she is barren and struggling; she prays to the Lord; Eli thought she was drunk but she way praying for a child struggling with infertility.

We are created in the image and likeness of God who wants children. This desire is put in us by God and Hannah is experiencing this. She is the model of a great mother who has a child and names him Samuel; a prophet, priest and king.

**V:27**: She is a great model; “I have lent him to the Lord” (e.g. the Priesthood); our responsibility it to train our children according to God’s gifts and calling.

**Chapter 2:12**: Samuel went to Shiloh (the capital of Israel) and went to Eli the priest whose sons were “worthless.” A little robe was prepared for him.

**Chapter 3:9-19**: Samuel begins to hear the voice of the Lord, but thinks it is Eli. Finally, he recognizes it as the voice of the Lord as he responds: “Here I am, Lord!” God wants to cultivate in our lives to hear His voice and follow Him.

**Chapters 4-7**: Battle of Philistines and Israel around the Ark of the Covenant; where God dwells and meets with Israel; a special piece of furniture (which contains; bowl of Manna; budding rod of Aaron’s staff and a copy of the 10 Commandments).

The Philistines are causing problems (they are in the southwest corner of Israel) 5 major cities of the Philistines (Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath and Ekron) where the Gaza Strip is today; they were starting to put pressure on Israel; who had a knowledge of smelting iron (this was the beginning of the Iron Age).

**1 Samuel 13**: The Philistines went to get their swords sharpened; trouble came to them and the Ark was captured; and a plaque broke out.

**Chapter 5**: brought the Ark to the house of Dagon, the Philistine god which fell down before the Ark and was smashed; even the false gods will bow down before Yahweh; then it was brought to the city of Gath and Ekron and more trouble breaks out

**Chapter 6**: the Ark it put on a cart with golden mice and tumors; because of a plaque that broke out (which spread the plaque among them according to the theologians); they were doing penance trying to make up for what they did.

**Chapter 7**: The Ark landed up in Kiriat-Jearim (outside of Jerusalem); which today there is a church with a replica of the Ark which the Blessed Virgin stands on top of fulfilling the promise of Revelation 11: when John sees heaven open and Chapter 12: where Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant.

**Chapter 8:4-5**: This is a pivotal point where **everything changes**; they are tired of no leadership and ask for a king (v. 4); came to Samuel and said: “You are old and your sons do not walk in your ways” like many great men in biblical history (e.g David); they requested an appointment of a king to govern like all the other nations; every city had a king at that time; it bothers Samuel because they wanted to have a king “like every other nation;” (v.6): it displeased Samuel; “Listen to the voice of the people… for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being King over them.” God wanted to be their king, either they were not ready or mature enough or worse, they wanted an earthly not a heavenly rule. This has consequences for Israel. Saul is the first king. This is called Divine Accommodation (when God comes down to our level; condescends) which is a great Fatherly move. God uses his Will to work through the earthly rule of the king. **God gives them what they need wrapped in what they want.** This is typology. God shows them mercy by giving them a king.

**Background**: During the Book of Numbers when Moses spoke in Deuteronomy 17 when he knew that Israel later was going to ask for a king; there are 3 things to watch for;   
1.) He must not have many wives, 2.) He must not multiply horses and 3.) He must not have a lot of silver or gold (which is related to foreign alliances; this will be broken); they must rely on the Lord instead.

Samuel warns the people (the manner of a king in 1 Samuel 8:11,13,15) who will take your sons, your daughters and vineyards and will tax (tithe) you (a type of slavery) and the people said “bring it on.” They wanted a king like all the other nations. God gives them what they want with the first king Saul (from the tribe of Benjamin) which is a strategic, political move in the middle of two tribes who do not get along.

**Chapter 10**: Saul is anointed as king by Samuel in a private ceremony.

**Chapter 13-15**: Saul becomes disobedient to the Lord (his job was to unite the kingdom); which God wants to do with all of us under the King, Jesus Christ. He does a pretty good job, but Saul has a weakness which is disobedience; which at the heart is a fear of the people, the desire to please the people more than God. This foreshadows David’s disobedience with Bathsheba. But there is a contrast between the two; Saul was waiting for the prophet to offer sacrifice; before Israel went into battle, Samuel did not return, so at the last minute Saul made his own sacrifice, putting himself in the role of priest which did not go over well with God or Samuel.

As a consequence the kingdom was ripped from him. (Chapter 13:13): God would have established the kingdom forever, but it had changed (Remember the promise of God in Genesis 12; “I will make your name great..). Saul had the chance to be the one to fulfill the promise of God to have many nations.

Saul (like many other characters; e.g. Esau) traded in the things that were eternal (valuable) for things that are of the earth.

**Chapter 15**: Saul is told to utterly destroy the Emalakites; he spares the king again and some sheep (to offer to God); but the kingdom is ripped from him; (v.22) “Obedience is better than sacrifice.” That is something to remember for us as well. God wants our hearts to be bent toward Him, because He loves us and wants us to be free. (V. 24) Saul acknowledges that he has sinned. (V. 30) Saul’s response is that he is not that sorry; This is said to Saul in private: “Honor me before the elders of the people” which is not the heart of a leader, of someone in God’s image. We have a constant downfall of Saul.

**Chapter 16**: Now we have David coming on the scene; from the House of Jesse; 7 sons are brought before him; and then asks for the 8th. (V. 13) David is anointed the next King of Israel in a private ceremony. (V. 14) Saul is tormented by an evil spirit; (v.23) David would play his harp for Saul to relieve his paranoia.

**Chapter 17**: David rises to national prominence; As the Philistines are challenging the allies of Israel; Goliath the giant. (V. 17) Told by his father to bring provisions to the front line of the battle in the Valley of Elah. (V. 26) David asks: “What shall be done to the man who kills this Philistine?” Saul comes to the line and see David and offers his armor to take on Goliath, but it did not feel comfortable. He gives a speech to Goliath; (V. 43) “Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?.... I come to you in the Name of the Lord of Hosts.” David goes to the brook and take 5 smooth stones and only using one, using a sling. This is not a cute story, this is battle (warfare). The stone hits Goliath in the skull and David finishes the job with a sword. David then rises to national prominence.

**Chapter 18**: Because the women sang of David’s defeat of Goliath. Saul tries to take David’s life because of jealousy; the problem is Jonathan (Saul’s son) was David’s best friend. David flees and hiding in cave in Ein Gedi and writes the psalms during this period of running. Saul tries twice to kill David while David spares Saul’s life twice because he respects the office of the king. The Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs were written about this period of salvation history.

What about Chronicles? 1 and 2 Chronicles are narrative which tell of the stories during this period. 1 Chronicles parallels 2 Samuel; 2 Chronicles parallels 1 and 2 Kings. The difference is it is from the perspective of the Davidic Kingdom.

This lesson ends with the tragic ending of the death of Saul; the Philistines found their way to lower Galilee to the mountains of Gilboa (part of the Via Maris) this road is in the valley called “Jesreal, Esralon or the Valley of Amageddon). This is the place where Saul was slain with his three sons, including Jonathan. A very sad day for David.

We focus on the character of Saul and David; when Saul was caught in sin twice (he admitted it but was more interested in his public persona). When David was caught, it was different. He had the heart after God. Being a leader does not make you perfect (Psalm 1; “Blessed is the man who takes refuge in the Lord…” and 2; show what makes David different). When he made a major sin and owned up to it (e.g. Bathsheba); this is what God wants from His anointed. God is reinserting His rule and reign on the earth through the throne of David. There will be someone on the throne “for ever and ever.” God’s plan will be successful, but there will be problems.

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