

The Decline of Saul

TEXT: 1 Sam. 15:24-31

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A PITIFUL PICTURE INDEED. HOW DID SAUL GET TO THIS POINT?
- B. SAUL WAS GOD'S CHOICE FOR A KING (1 Sam 9:15-17). WHY?
 - 1. **Ch. 9:1-2.** None **goodlier**.
 - 2. **Ch. 9:20-21.** **Humble**.
 - 3. **Ch. 10:27.** **Understanding.** **11:12-13.**
- C. **WHAT HAPPENED TO SAUL MAY HAPPEN TO US.**

I. THE ILL-ADVISED SACRIFICE (13:8-15). PRESUMPTION.

- A. THE SIN OF **PRESUMPTION**.
 - 1. **"To take upon oneself without permission or authority"** (Webster).
 - 2. **Deut. 18:20.** Without God sending (**Deut. 1:43**)
 - 3. May be outright rebellion or thoughtlessness. Always deadly!
- B. GOD'S REGARD FOR IT (**Deut. 17:12-13; 18:20; Num 15:30; 2 Pet. 2:9-10**).
- C. UNDER THE NEW COVENANT (**2 John 9**).
- D. **Psalm 19:13.**

II. THE FOOLISH ADJURATION (14:24-30). THOUGHTLESSNESS!

- A. WE ARE TOLD TO BE **CAREFUL** (**Eph. 5:15; 1 Pet. 5:8**).
- B. WE ARE TO BE **DILIGENT** IN HIS WORK (**Heb. 6:11-12**).
- C. EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO USED NO THOUGHT:
 - 1. **Jephthah's** rash vow (**Judges 11:30-31, 34-35**).
 - 2. **David's** sin with Bathsheba (**2 Sam 12:10-12; 18:33**).
 - 3. **Lot's** choosing of Sodom (**Gen. 13:13; 19:14, 26, 31-32**).
- D. A MOMENT WITH OUR GUARD DOWN MAY HAVE **ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES** (**Heb. 12:14-17**).
- E. "I JUST DIDN'T THINK ..." USED TO JUSTIFY TOO MANY THINGS.

III. THE SPARING OF AGAG (15:1-3, 9, 13-15, 20-23). REBELLION.

- A. "I KNOW WHAT GOD SAID, BUT SURELY ..."
- B. IF WE KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND DON'T DO IT (**James 4:17**).
- C. WHAT DOES GOD DESIRE IN US? (**1 Sam. 15:22-23**).
- D. IF WE SIN **KNOWING IT** ... (**Heb. 10:26-27; 2 Thess. 1:7-9**).

IV. THE CONSEQUENCE OF SAUL'S SIN (1 Sam. 15:28).

- A. **WE CAN FALL FROM GRACE** (**Gal. 5:4**).
- B. **2 Peter 2:9-10.**

CONCLUSION: WILL YOU HUMBLE YOURSELF TO SERVE GOD?