



CONNECT

9 Feb 2010

Saul's Rise & Demise

(notes for Connect evening, 9th Feb following 1 Samuel 7-15
-Chris Jelfs)

1. In last weeks Sunday morning session, we looked at the legacy that had been left Israel by Eli the priest and his two sons Hophni & Phineas. We also looked at how the nation of Israel rejected YHWH by requesting a king so that they 'might be like the nations around them.' Are there areas of your life where you are trying to be like those around you in order to be accepted by them?

2. We also discussed on a prophetic level, how God wanted us to ask Him for what He prefers in our lives rather than what He will permit. Remember how He acquiesced to the nations' request, and Saul son of Kish was anointed. Are there decisions you are facing where what you want might be getting in the way of what God would prefer for you?

3. One of the sad things we discovered about Saul was the issue that he forgot that it was God's authority working through him. He started doing things in his own strength and understanding. He thought he knew best! A typical example was how he offered the sacrifice before battle in 1 Samuel ch. 13 v 9. Are there ever times in your life, when you have felt that rather than waiting for God's answer to a situation, you have taken matters into your own hands? If so, what was the end result?

4. When Saul failed to destroy completely the Amalekites, and Samuel points out his error to him, Saul repeatedly tried to justify his position (ch 15 v 15 & ch 20 v 15). Is this something you can identify with?

5. We performed a slight detour and looked at the symbology of the torn robe of Samuel. Did you find this helpful / interesting? Do you ever experience anything of God's authority over your own life?

6. Finally, we explored the possibility of 'Doing things differently leads to something exceptional.' Are there any areas of your life where this might be applicable so that you might experience a greater measure of God's authority released in your life?