

Doctrine of Saul

Three Failures

1. The story of King Saul is the story of disappointment and failure. Saul failed himself, he failed his people, and he failed God. Many lessons could be learned from his life. Attention is focused upon his failure as a leader.

2. As king, Saul committed many atrocities against his people, as the nation had been forewarned.
 - He conscripted for military service the sons of Israel (1 Sam. 8:11-12).
 - He imposed a national mandatory service on the daughters of Israel. They were forced to make for Israel's first royal family fragrant perfumes, incense, and anointing oils as confectioneries (1 Sam. 8:13).
 - He instigated an illegal government takeover of the means of production, and then redistributed the nation's wealth based on patronage (1 Sam. 8:14).
 - He demanded provisions be given to all military personal, and government servants (1 Sam. 8:15).
 - He took away individual freedom. (1 Sam. 8:16).
 - He confiscated all that individuals held dear, and gave it to others (1 Sam. 8:17).
 - He showed a reluctance to keep the nation safe against foreign enemies, such as the Amalekites.
 - He used "the people" as a scapegoat, when he himself had shown poor judgment (1 Sam. 16:20-21).

3. As Saul failed Israel as a political leader, so he failed the LORD as a spiritual leader.
 - He performed an unauthorized sacrifice. *1 Samuel 13:9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. 10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. 11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; 12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.*

- He lied about what he had done, only to be exposed. Then, he lied about the people as he shamelessly shifted blame from himself to others, thereby making himself a victim. *1 Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord. 14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? 15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.*
 - He did not completely obey the known will of the Lord, and was rebuked for that transgression. *1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*
4. Saul failed Israel, he failed God, and he failed himself.
- He failed to exercise self-control.
 - He enjoyed no personal spiritual connection to God. *1 Samuel 15:30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord thy God.*
 - He showed fear, instead of faith, before the face of the giant, Goliath.
5. As a result of his rebellion against the Lord, Saul died, with his sons, a premature death at the Battle of Giboa.
- *1 Samuel 31:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. 2 And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons. 3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. 4 Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. 5 And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. 6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.*