

## **KING SAUL: A CASE STUDY IN LEADERSHIP**

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1. Read 1 Samuel 8.1-3. Describe the events that led up to Israel demanding that a king would be placed over themselves.
2. Read 1 Samuel 8.4-9. What was God's response to Samuel concerning Israel wanting a king? Why do you think God responded that way?
3. Read 1 Samuel 8.10-18. What changes would come about when the king would be installed?
4. Read 1 Samuel 8.19-22. How did the people respond after the Lord's warning was given?
5. Read 1 Samuel 10.1-16. Did Saul begin by obeying the words and direction of Samuel? Is this an important attribute of a leader? Why or why not?
6. Read 1 Samuel 10.17-24. Do you think that this event was a positive day in the nation of Israel? How do you think Saul must have felt?
7. Read 1 Samuel 10.25-27. Why do you think that there were those who despised the selection of Saul as King?
8. Read 1 Samuel 11.1-15. Evaluate Saul's first performance as king. Do you think that he handled himself biblically? What were the positive elements of his decision? The negative ones?
9. Read 1 Samuel 12.1-7. Describe the next situation that Saul faced.
10. Read 1 Samuel 13.8-14. What sin did Saul commit? What was Saul's motivation?
11. Read 1 Samuel 14.24-30. On what basis did Saul issue his command? Does his lesson confirm or not confirm why the Bible should be the only authority in issuing commands, direction, doctrine or other statements that our people should follow?
12. Read 1 Samuel 14.31-35. Due to the command in question 11, what was the result of the poor decision of Saul (how did the people sin?)
13. Read 1 Samuel 14.36-46. What situation did Saul's unbiblical command put him in? What confidence or security did the people have after the king nullified his edict? Why should the law be above all people, even the king?
14. Read 1 Samuel 15.1-9. What sin did Saul commit? Why was it a sin?

15. Read 1 Samuel 15.10-23. How did Saul respond to Samuel's presence? What motivated Saul to violate God's word as he did?
16. Read 1 Samuel 15.24-35. Why was Saul's apology not true repentance? If repentance is not saying, "I'm sorry," what is it? Why do you think Saul did not submit to God's man (Samuel) or God's word? What truly makes something authoritative in one's life?
17. Read 1 Samuel 17.1-3. What affect did the previous situation with King Agag of the Amalekites have upon Saul when he faced the Phillistines?
18. Read 1 Samuel 17.4-11. What affect did the lack of relationship with God have upon Saul when he faced a seemingly difficult situation?
19. Read 1 Samuel 18.5-9. Where did Saul's jealousy come from? What was it about David that Saul craved for so much?
20. Read 1 Samuel 18.10-16. Why do you think Saul tried to "pin" David to the wall? What was causing the serious downspiral in Saul's life?
21. Read 1 Samuel 22.1-23. Relate your impressions concerning this story. Tie in all you have studied about Saul to draw your conclusions. What must his life been like for him to murder the priests of YHWH? What did Saul fear?
22. Read 1 Samuel 28.1-25. Why did Saul seek out a medium (witch) to have his inquiry answered? Why do you think that Saul went to a person who was in a group that he had banned? Was this biblical? Did Saul think that his actions were okay?
23. Read 1 Samuel 31.1-6. What was Saul's chief concern when he died (why did he want his armor bearer to kill him)? Who was he least concerned with? What does this say of Saul's leadership?
24. Write a one-half page essay on what the story of Saul teaches you about principles of leadership, authority, decision-making, the affects of sin and heart condition. Also summarize the impact that this story made upon your life.