

# Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**FOR REBELLION IS AS THE SIN OF WITCHCRAFT, AND STUBBORNNESS IS AS INIQUITY AND IDOLATRY...**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 SAMUEL 15:16-35**

**1 Samuel 15:22-23**, *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.*

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a. I take the position that this book was written by Samuel himself up to the 25th chapter which records his death.
- b. Apparently, Nathan and Gad completed the writings in this book. We learn this from **1 Samuel 10:25**, *Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. And 1 Chronicles 29:29*, *Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer,*
- c. It is believed this book was possible written in 1050 to 931 BC.
- d. It seems it did not appear in its final form until some years later, possibly 930 to 722 BC.
- e. It spans a period of about 94 years; from the birth of Samuel to the death of King Saul.
- f. The book bears the name Samuel because he is one of the principal figures and he had the privilege of anointing King Saul and King David, the chief characters in the latter portion of this book. **1 Samuel 15:1-3**, *Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.*
- g. A close examination would indicate that **1 Samuel** is a continuation of the **Book of Judges**.
- h. It was written during a very turbulent time, when Eli was judge-priest and Israel was being oppressed heavily by the Philistines.
- i. The three main characters of this book are Samuel, King Saul and King David.
- j. It was written primarily to the Israelites, of course as all Scripture, it does have

- some application to the church.
- k. The **Book of Samuel** contains many familiar features.
    1. The rise of the Kingdom of Israel.
    2. The story of Hannah and her little boy, Samuel.
    3. The story of David and Goliath.
    4. The unusual friendship between David and Jonathan.
    5. The account of King Saul's visit to the witch of Endor in **1 Samuel 28:7**, *Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.*
    6. David's great sin with Bathsheba and the rebellion of his son, Absalom.
  - l. In the **Book of Judges**, we find that God uses so called ordinary people who have serious faults and defects to carry out His will and purpose.
    1. Their story is very encouraging for people today who consider themselves ordinary.
    2. **When we consider ourselves ordinary people, we absolutely can become great giants for God. We must keep in mind that humility is the name of the game.**
  - m. In **1 and 2 Samuel** we meet some outstanding people.
    1. Hannah
    2. Eli
    3. Samuel
    4. Saul
    5. Jonathan
    6. David
  - n. There are 3 subjects that may be considered major themes of **1 and 2 Samuel**.
    1. **Prayer**
      - a. **1 Samuel** opens with prayer and **2 Samuel** closes prayer.
      - b. There is a great deal of prayer that runs through the entire book.
    2. **The rise of the Kingdom.**
      - a. The change of government from theocracy to a kingdom.
      - b. God's covenant with David given in **2 Samuel 7**.
    3. **The rise of the office of prophets.**
      - a. When Israel was a theocracy, God moved through the priesthood.
      - b. We know the priesthood failed and a king was anointed.
      - c. God set the priest aside and raised up the prophets as His messengers.
      - d. We will find for the Nation Israel this resulted in deterioration rather than improvement.
  - o. **1 and 2 Samuel** record the origin of the kingdom which continues to be an especially important subject in both the Old and New Testament.
  - p. As John the Baptist steps out on the pages of history, His message was **Matthew 3:2, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**
  - q. **The kingdom that is spoken about in the Old Testament is the Kingdom where the Lord Jesus Christ will eventually sit on the Throne of David and rule and reign for a thousand years.**
  - r. This book records the coming Millennium Kingdom and is foreshadowed in several respect of the setting up of the kingdom of Israel.

1. A king to exercise power in righteousness is none other than Jesus Christ.
  2. A king, who will rule in full dependence upon God, is also Jesus Christ.
  3. A king who will rule in full obedience to God is Jesus Christ.
- s. **Our Lord Jesus Christ is the coming King: King of kings and Lord of lords.**
- t. The Israelites wanted a king something like the heathen nations around them.
- u. God selected David to replace Saul as king, but David had to flee to the wilderness to escape from Saul's rage of jealousy. **1 Samuel 18:7-11**, *And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. 8: And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? 9: And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. 10: And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. 11: And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.*
- v. A key word in these books is Jealousy in the heart.
- w. This book is full of jealousy; Israel asked for a king and Saul was the people's choice. David was God's choice.
- x. Thus, God looks at the heart and His selections are not always what would be expected from mankind. **1 Samuel 16:7**, *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*
- y. This should be a wake-up call for Chesswood Baptist Church; we must depend on God as placements are made for various jobs and responsibilities.
- z. Some key themes in the Book of **1 Samuel** are:
1. God is bigger than any problem that we could ever have.
  2. With God's help our emotions can be kept under control.
  3. Even God's children can fail and fall into sin.
  4. Any life full of sin and defeat can have victory and accomplishment if repentance and obedience are begun.
  5. Sin in our lives may encourage God to take away our blessings and give them to others. Luke 12:48, But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.
  6. Our ultimate leadership should be from God and not man.
  7. Obedience is much more important to God than sacrifice.
  8. We, like David, should be men after God's own heart. **1 Samuel 13:14**, *But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message September 13, 2020

### 3. SEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

#### h. Then Samuel said unto Saul,...

1. **1 Samuel 15:16-19**, Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. **17:** And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? **18:** And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. **19:** Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?
2. We must come to grips with several things from these verses.
3. **We are either obedient or disobedient. There is no in between.** Man attempts to walk the chalk-line. That means we are neither on one side nor the other. The Bible says in **1 Kings 18:21**, And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.
4. God gives specific instructions and reviews the history of why Saul is king over all the tribes of the Children of Israel. God's command was noticeably clear; to destroy the sinners of the Amalekites and fight against them until they are consumed. Saul failed to perform that job.
5. When Saul failed to perform that job, he opened things up to wicked Haman that would have destroyed the entire Nation of Israel had it not been for Mordecai and Esther. We will expand on this during a later message.

#### i. And Saul said unto Samuel,...

1. **1 Samuel 15:20-21**, And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. **21:** But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.
2. Notice that there is a good reason that Saul has for not obeying God.
3. Before we get to that, he makes a statement that he had done what God told him to do.
4. I ask you; did he follow the instructions or did he not?
5. Saul did not obey the voice of the Lord. He does not say "my God or our God" he says *thy God*.
6. He does not want to take responsibility.
7. This is a reminder of what happened back in the Garden of Eden, where Adam blamed the women for what had taken place. **Genesis 3:12**, And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.
8. Saul says he did what he was supposed to do, *But the people took of the spoil.*
9. He oversaw the people. **So goes the leader, so goes the nation.**

#### j. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and

## idolatry....

1. **1 Samuel 15:22-23**, *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.
  2. Notice what Saul had done was compromise. He was afraid of the people and as a result he did not do what God told him to do.
  3. Too often there are Christians willing to compromise. They want to hob-knob with every Tom, Dick and Harry and totally disregard the Preserved Word of God, the Deity of Christ and justification by faith.
  4. This is the very thing that got Saul in trouble. God intends for us to obey.
  5. Although there were sacrifices and animals taken for that reason, God tells us *to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23: For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.*
  6. We live in a time where we want to bring God down to our level. We must be careful about "Jesus is a friend of mine." He is our friend if we do what He commanded us to do. **John 15:14**, *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.* But He wants us to be obedient.
  7. We are getting too familiar with the Lord Jesus Christ. We are forgetting about what He has told us to do, people get so-called extra-biblical revelations, and we know full well that it is not God's will that we do certain things.
  8. We must remember that Christianity is different from any other religion on the face of the earth. Christianity is we must know Christ. **Philippians 3:10**, *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*
  9. There are many things in scripture specifying that we need to be in Christ, take on His righteousness, and after salvation He wants us to bear fruit. **Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23: Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
  10. When we are bearing the fruit of the Spirit, we commend men and women to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
  11. Saul is stubborn. None of us would think of practicing witchcraft but God says *rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.*
- k. **And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned:...**
1. **1 Samuel 15:24**, *And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.*
  2. Was the motivation for this man to do what he did because of the people? Did the people have that much effect on him?
  3. Nevertheless, he puts the blame on the people. He does however make the statement *I have sinned:*
  4. The question is what happens now from this point on?
  5. Is this a true confession or does he continue to transgress? We will find this

man continued to transgress.

6. *I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.* Any time a leader gets his eyes on the people and not on the mission that God has given him, especially a pastor, he is in trouble.
- i. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin,...**
1. **1 Samuel 15:25-29**, *Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. 26: And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. 27: And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. 28: And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. 29: And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.*
  2. God rejects Saul from being king. *God does remove people from various positions. Romans 13:2, Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*
  3. God has taken the kingdom away from Saul and it is because of the sin he has committed.
  4. God has not changed His mind. He was with Saul if Saul was obedient. When Saul was disobedient, God was no longer with him.
  5. We must understand that God is with us if we are obedient. When we are disobedient, and rebel we are in serious trouble. **Galatians 5:16**, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
  6. Saul had sinned. Notice a couple of things: **1 Samuel 15:25** *Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. 26: And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.* – Saul wants Samuel to help him cover up, he wants to compromise but God is not in the business of compromising. God made up His mind and was seeking David; a man after His own heart.
- m. Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites...**
1. **1 Samuel 15:32-33**, *Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past. 33: And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.*
  2. Samuel takes it upon himself to do what Saul should have done.
  3. My friend, God is a God of judgment. He will judge one of these days.
  4. I have said often that we will either stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account for our stewardship, or we will stand before Him at the great White Throne not clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
  5. There are many, even in high places that think they are getting away with sin, they are dishonest, murderers, adulterers, and do not know how to treat people.

6. Samuel is going to take everything in his own hand and do the job.
- n. **Then Samuel went to Ramah;...**
1. **1 Samuel 15:34-35**, **Then Samuel went to Ramah;** and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. **35:** And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.
  2. It looks like God is changing His mind here. God does not change. **Malachi 3:6**, For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
  3. He brought Saul to the throne and instructed him to be obedient. When Saul was not obedient God had to look for someone that was going to obey.
  4. All the sons of Jesse paraded by except David. **1 Samuel 16:10-11**, **Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. 11: And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.**
  5. God loves His people to be obedient to His calling.
  6. As far as Chesswood Baptist Church: **we MUST walk in the ways of God.** Many times, it will not be popular, but we must do God's will.
  7. We are not here to modify His will or His purpose. He has told us what to do.
  8. We are to win men and women, boys, and girls to the Lord Jesus Christ.
  9. We are to strengthen the saints, work the ministry and edify the body of Christ. **Ephesians 4:12**, **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**
  10. We are to stand on the Preserved Word of God and exalt the Deity of Christ and preach justification by faith.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- a. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- b. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- c. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- d. Would you please stand?

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