

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 19]

WAR CRIMES AND SAUL'S FIRST CHALLENGE

Reading: 1 Samuel 11:1 - 11

Introduction

- The era of the judges is about to end and the era of kings about to begin.
- Jehovah chooses Saul, the son of a wealthy farmer to be the first king.
- Saul is privately anointed by Samuel to be king and then publicly revealed to all Israel.
- A tremendous **'band'** went with him to build the kingdom.

1 Nahash And The Ammonites

- The Ammonites were Israel's pagan neighbours to their east across the Jordan.
- Like the Philistines they were also ancient enemies of Israel.
- He hailed from the incestuous union of Abraham's nephew Lot and his youngest daughter. [Genesis 19:30 - 38].
- **'Nahash'** means **'serpent or snake.'**
- He is a picture/type of Satan who comes against the people of God today. [Revelation 12:9].

2 War Crimes At Jabesh Gilead

- Nahash and the Ammonites besiege the city of Jabesh Gilead.
- The leaders of the city offer to make a covenant with the Ammonites for peace.

- Warning: You never make a deal with the devil - **NEVER**.
- Nahash's terms for peace was the indignity of the people having their right eyes gouged out.
- This was to humiliate them and disable them in any future conflict.
- Messengers take the sorry news to Gilead.

3 Righteous Anger

- When Saul hears it, ***'his anger is greatly aroused.'***
- There is anger and there is anger.
- There is anger that causes you to behave badly and then there is ***'righteous anger.'***
- Consider Jesus cleansing the temple.
- God's people need to get angry again at sin and allow that anger to stir us into action.
- Notice the 2 qualities of a ***'good'*** leader.
- Saul felt responsible, even though the issue was 50 miles away and he was not yet king.
- Saul lead by example. He sacrificed his own oxen.
- A leader never asks you to do something they are not first doing themselves.

4 The Uniting For A Common Cause.

- [Vs 7]. Margin: ***'they came out as one man.'***
- Unity of the people of God is our great weapon against the enemy. [John 17:21] & [Ephesians 4:3].
- Then the Spirit of the Lord ***'rushed upon Saul.'***
- We all need the Spirit of the Lord to 'rush' upon us and endue us with power.
- One commentator says, ***'God takes this shy hesitating farmer and makes him function as a super judge.'***
- Another commentator says, ***'Salvation came not because Israel now had a king but because the king in waiting had the Spirit upon him.'***
- Saul's army of 330,000 divided into 3 companies attack in the morning watch (2:00 - 6.00 am) and Nahash/Satan was routed.

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