

CLASS: SS2

SUBJECT: CRS

TOPIC: CONSEQUENCES OF OBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE

WEEK: 5

TERM: FIRST

ISRAEL DEMAND FOR KING

(I Samuel 10: 1 – 16)

Samuel's sons whom he appointed judges over Israel did not walk in the ways of the Lord. **They took bribe and perverted justice**. This made the Israelites lose confidence in them and therefore, demanded for a king. More so, the people felt that all other nations around them had kings and so, they should also have king who could go out with them and fight wars. Though, this demand was displeased Samuel, but God instructed him to go ahead and anoint a king for them. This led to the anointment of **Saul** and the first king of Israel.

THE ANOINTING OF SAUL BY SAMUEL

Saul, the **son of Kish** met Samuel for the first time when he went out with a servant to look for his father's ass. The spirit of the Lord directed Samuel to anoint Saul king over Israel. Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him. Samuel informed Saul that the Lord had appointed him prince over his people, Israel. As a confirmation, Samuel gave Saul some signs which he would see on his way:

- I. Two men would meet him by **Rachel's tomb**, as they would inform him that the lost ass has been found, and that his father is anxiously looking for him.
- II. At the **oak of Tabor**, Saul would meet three men on their way to **Bethel** to worship, one carrying the **three kids**, another carrying **three loaves of bread** and the other carrying a **skin of wine**. They would greet him and give him two loaves of bread.
- III. At **Gibeathelohim**, he would meet a band of **prophets** coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute and lyre. The spirit of the Lord would come mightily upon him; he would prophesy with them and would be transformed.

All these signs actually came to pass and when Saul prophesied with the prophets, those who knew him before said to one another: *"What has come over the son of kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"*

SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE

(I Samuel 15: 1 – 19)

Soon after the appointment of Saul as king of Israel, through Samuel, God gave him an assignment :

“I will punish the Amalek for what they did to Israel in opposing them on the way, when they came out of Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both men and women, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. “

Saul organized his soldiers and went after the **Amalekites** and defeated them, but rather than destroying everything as he was instructed, he took the best of the things and destroyed worthless things. Above all, he spared **Agag**, the king and brought him home. This was Saul's major disobedience and God regretted making him king. When Samuel confronted him on the issue, he lied to Samuel. He said he had carried out the instruction of the Lord. He did not know that the Lord had already revealed to Samuel all he had done. When Samuel questioned “the bleating of the sheep and lowering of the oxen”, Saul claimed that it was the people that brought those things for sacrifice to the Lord. This was a case of gross Indiscipline and lack of repentance. Saul knew he had disobeyed God and rather than admitting his fault, he consistently shifted blames to the people

CONSEQUENCES OF SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE

(I Samuel 15: 20-25; 16:14-23; 31:1-13)

Saul's disobedience caused him the kingdom. Samuel announced his rejection as king of Israel, when Samuel said to Saul:

“For you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel. “

As a result of the disobedience, the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an **evil spirit from the Lord** tormented him. Whenever this torment started, David joined Saul's service as he was very skillful in playing the lyre.

When Israel battled with the **Philistines** at mount **Gibe**a, Saul and his three sons – **Jonathan**, **Malchishua** and **Abinadab** were killed.

The philistines cut off his head, stripped off his armor and put it in the temple of **Ashtaroth** and fastened his body to the wall of **Bethsham**. When the men of **Jabeshgilead** heard what the philistines had done to Saul, they went and took his body and that of his sons, burnt them and buried their bones under **Tamarisk** and fasted for seven days.

LESSONS TO LEARN

1. Christians should be obedient to God's instruction for the reward of being obedient to God outweighs whatever they stand to gain by disobedient.
2. Saul failed because he was moved by greed. Therefore, people in their day to day activities should not allow themselves to be move by greed.
3. Once favored with God can turn to sorrow, once one starts living a disobedient and sinful life.
4. God is omniscient; man cannot do anything in secret, without the knowledge of God.
5. Disobedience leads to suffering and condemnation from God. Saul suffered greatly. God allowed evil spirit to torment him.
6. Disobedience can lead to a tragic end, and Saul lost his life alongside with his three sons in a battle.

ASSIGNMENT

Narrate why King Saul consulted the witch of **Endor**.