

SAUL IN THE ROUND 1 SAM. 14:47-52

What do we learn about Saul in the round?

I. Saul was **more complex** than we thought he was!

1 Samuel 14:47 So Saul **took** the kingdom over Israel, and **fought** against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.

Acts 13:21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, **by the space of forty years.**

What do we know?

- **Saul was king for a long time**
- **Much / most of his reign is not recorded**
- **Most of what is recorded is recorded to tell us why Saul failed and why David rose**

Acts 13:21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, **by the space of forty years.** Acts 13:22 And when he had **removed** him, he **raised up** unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart**, which shall fulfil all my will.

1 Samuel 13:13 And Samuel said **to Saul**, **Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God**, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. 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.

1 Samuel 15:17 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?

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.** 1 Samuel 15:23 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.

- **Much more could have been told**

John 20:30 And **many other signs** truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are **not** written in this book: John 20:31 But these are written, **that** ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and **that** believing ye might have life through his name.

John 21:25 And there are **also many other things** which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

- **Saul manifested the human condition: nobility & cruelty**

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

2 Samuel 23:1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 2 Samuel 23:2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. 2 Samuel 23:3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

II. Saul was (much) **more competent** than we thought he was!

1 Samuel 14:47 So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, **against** Moab, and **against** the children of Ammon, and **against** Edom, and **against** the kings of Zobah, and **against** the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned

himself, he vexed them. **1 Samuel 14:48** And he gathered an host, and smote the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.

1 Samuel 14:52 And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

Saul's resume in 1 Samuel:

- **Jonathan is the leader**
- **David wins against Goliath**
- **Saul is jealous**
- **Saul tries to kill David**
- **David wins some more battles**
- **Saul tries to kill David many times**
- **Saul gets killed**

III. Saul was more “Christian” than we thought he was!

1 Samuel 14:49 Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua: and the names of his two daughters were these; the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal: **1 Samuel 14:50** And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz: and the name of the captain of his host was Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. **1 Samuel 14:51** And Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

We dare not draw too many conclusions from this text & from silence:

- **Saul's life was fairly straightforward**
- **Saul had a reasonably simple family***

***2 Samuel 3:7** And Saul had a **concubine**, whose name was **Rizpah**, the daughter of Aiah: and Ishbosheth said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?

2 Samuel 21:8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite: **2 Samuel 21:9** And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

- **Saul wasn't David in this area!**

2 Samuel 3:2 And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; **2 Samuel 3:3** And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; **2 Samuel 3:4** And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; **2 Samuel 3:5** And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

2 Samuel 5:12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake. **2 Samuel 5:13** And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David. **2 Samuel 5:14** And these be the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, **2 Samuel 5:15** Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,

Conclusion: Saul wasn't purely evil neither, at the core / center of his being, was he a man after God's own heart!