

FASCINATING STORIES OF FORGOTTEN LIVES
REDISCOVERING SOME OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS
SAUL: THE KING WHO REFUSED TO BOW
1 SAMUEL 13–15



The Heart of the Matter

Back in biblical times, when kings reigned and kingdoms grew, all sorts of characters emerged who wore crowns. Some were loud, boisterous, brutal, and ungodly, while others were quiet, weak-willed, and even humble. A few on record were godly and teachable, many were stubborn and arrogant, and still others were young, impressionable, and easily misled. But of all the studies we could make of those ancient monarchs, not one of the kings provides more intriguing food for thought than the ones who began their reigns one way and ended them another. In the process of the passing of years, they changed. Such was the situation with the king we meet in this study. When he became king, he was “little in his own eyes” (see 1 Samuel 15:17), but some time later all that changed drastically. The erosion of his character left him proud, impatient, and downright rebellious . . . a man who refused to bow even to the Lord his God. A serious failure, well worth our attention.



Discovering the Way

1. A Brief Study of Hebrew Life Before Saul Became King

Before Saul, the Israelites had no king. God primarily used judges and prophets to lead the people.

2. A Tragic Analysis of Saul's Character Erosion (1 Samuel 13–15)

First, Saul made an impatient offering, an act of irreverent presumption. Second, Saul made a rash vow, an irresponsible and unwise decision that almost cost the life of his son, Jonathan. And third, Saul engaged in a disobedient act, where he heard one thing and did another.



Starting Your Journey

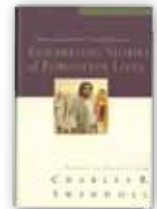
Saul's life offers four reminders for all who walk with God. First, to assume you will end strong because you started strong is foolish. Second, to presume into inappropriate areas because circumstances are uncomfortable is dangerous. Third, to jeopardize another's well-being because you're unwilling to alter an unwise decision is unfair. Fourth, to rationalize your disobedience because you wanted *your* way is rebellion.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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