

Return of the King
The Heart of the Matter
1 Samuel

Main Idea:

Despite their rejection of the Lord in asking for a King, God graciously provides Israel with a King who exemplifies a truly consecrated-heart

Exposition of 1 Samuel: Difference between a “Saul-Heart” and “David-Heart”

The main problem in the book of Judges: There was no King in the Land, and everyone does what is right in their own eyes.

In the book of Ruth God still sees and He knows. He is working behind the scenes to accomplish His plan. See Ruth 4:13-17.

Then in 1 Samuel 1:11 Hannah has a son and vows to dedicate him to the service of the Lord. Then Samuel becomes a judge, but when he becomes old, the people request a king. Actually they are rejecting God as their King. (1 Samuel 8:4-9)

1 Samuel 9:23-24 Samuel proclaims Saul, who was handsome and very tall (1 Samuel 9:2), as King.

The problem with Saul: A Heart of Presumption.

A presumptuous-heart is characterized by arrogance and overconfidence, taking God’s grace for granted and assuming one is entitled to His blessings. A presumptuous heart will often directly challenge God’s authority.

Presumptuous Sin #1: Saul offers an authorized sacrifice (1 Samuel 13:13-14)

Presumptuous Sin #2: Sparing King Agag’s Life (1 Samuel 15:9-11, 22-28)

Thus Samuel searches for a king after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 16:6-7, 12-13)

The Difference with David: A Heart of Consecration

A consecrated-heart is characterized by thanksgiving, humility, and joy because it depends upon God’s grace, realizing that God’s blessings are solely due to His own goodness and mercy. A consecrated-heart celebrates grace by becoming dedicated to Him and Him alone.

Examples of David's "Consecrated-Heart:

Facing Goliath – 1 Samuel 17:46

Sparing Saul – 1 Samuel 24:6

Dancing before the Ark – 2 Samuel 6:12-15

From the Psalms – Psalm 18:1-3, 27:4, 63:1-4

The Main Idea: Despite their rejection of the Lord in asking for a King, God graciously provides Israel with King who exemplifies a truly consecrated-heart.

Application - Making the Christ-Connection with 1 Samuel: What does "grace" mean for Christians today? (Ephesians 2:1-10)

What was the fundamental difference between Saul & David?

They each understood God's grace very differently.....

Saul presumed upon God's grace, and therefore took it for granted (resulting in a life of presumptuous and willful sin!).

David depended upon God's grace, and therefore received it with humility, thanksgiving, and joy (resulting in a life of obedience and consecrations!)

How do these different responses to God's grace relate to Christians in the present age? Like Saul, we are warned to not take God's grace for granted by living presumptuously. Like David, we are encouraged to depend on God's grace by living with humility, joy, and thanksgiving before Him.

So what is "God's Grace"?

In the New Testament:

Grace is personalized in Jesus Christ

Grace is personal (for believers) through Jesus Christ

Grace is empowering by Jesus Christ

The bad news about our "hearts" apart from Christ – Ephesians 2:1-3

The good news about our "hearts" in Christ – Ephesians 2:4-10

Discussion Questions

- 1) How did God provide for His people after the chaos of the period of Judges?
- 2) What was Saul's main "heart-problem"? How did his actions exhibit this "heart-problem"?
- 3) How does David respond to God's grace differently from Saul? What can we learn about grace and a "consecrated-heart" from David's example?
- 4) How does Paul describe grace in Ephesians 2:1-10?
- 5) How might God be calling you to realize more of His grace in your life?
(Remember: in the New Testament grace is personalized in Christ, personal through Christ and empowering by Christ).