

would no longer communicate with him (1Sa 28:6). **That is a bad condition to be in**, yet if we are not careful, we can find ourselves in a similar condition. If we get out of fellowship with God, unconfessed sins pile up on our doorstep. Then as the Psalmist wrote in Psalms 66:18, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*"

- 4) Saul desperately needed spiritual counsel but Samuel was dead, God refused to communicate with him by dream or by Urim and he had no other prophet to give him advice.
- 5) In his sinful state, Saul turned to the witch at Endor for direction (1Sa 28:7-8).

b. God hates sorcery or witchcraft

- 1) Sorcery or witchcraft is one of the sins that God strongly condemns (Deut 18:10-12).
- 2) Similar to idolatry, it is bypassing God and seeking direction from Satan.
- 3) This was the final nail in Saul's coffin. The next day he died in the battle with the Philistines.
- 4) Christian, we are to have no connection whatsoever with witchcraft. Cartoons portray witches, wizards, shamans, spells and super powers as exciting and they captivate the minds of children. Satan is using demonic-powered super-human cartoon characters to capture the hearts of our young people. This is not just innocent fantasy. It is demonic evil and God hates it. Be Warned and Beware!

Conclusion: The sins that dethroned Saul were **pride**, **disobedience**, and **sorcery**. Satan is still using these same three sins to ruin the lives of Christians today. **Pride** is the sin of elevating and pleasing self rather than God. When pride begins to show itself in your life, crush it and renew your fear of God. When your heart becomes rebellious and **disobedient**, do not deny it, make excuse for it or blame others. Confess it and forsake it. If you have gotten careless with the **occult**, ask God's forgiveness and rid your life of all that drifts in that direction. It is far better to be safe than sorry!

Song: Sound the Battle Cry! **413**

Sins that Dethroned Saul

16 February 2020 PM - 1Chronicles 10:13 - Kings20 - Scott Childs

Introduction: Introduce the chart of Israel's Kings. This evening we are going to begin a journey through the pages of the Old Testament as we examine the lives of Israel's kings. In 1096 BC, the Israelites complained to the Prophet Samuel, "*Give us a king to judge us*" (1Sa 8:6). They were not content to have God as their King and Samuel as their prophet-judge. ^(Lockyer) God told Samuel to harken to them because they had rejected God (1Sa 8:7). God chose Saul to be Israel's first king (1Sa 9). He was tall, modest, brave, and zealous. The Spirit of God came upon Saul (1Sa 10:6). [Remember that in the OT, the Holy Spirit did not indwell all believers as He does now.] God gave him another heart (1Sa 10:9). Saul had a godly son, Jonathan. Certainly, Saul had a good start as he ascended the throne of Israel. He reigned as king of Israel for 40 years, from 1095-1055 BC.

Sadly, Saul's great start quickly began to decline. Saul had reigned for 10 years when David was born. When David was about 15 years old, God had Samuel secretly anoint him to be the next king. Therefore, by about the middle of Saul's 40-year reign, God had already rejected him.

During his reign, Saul committed several sins for which God eventually dethroned him. Not only did he lose his throne; he lost his life.

Transition: The three primary sins that dethroned Saul are sins that will also greatly hurt us today as well.

The first sin that dethroned Saul was ...

1. Pride (1Chronicles 10:13)

a. He proudly offered a burnt offering

- 1) Saul was in his second year as king when he offered a burnt offering that only a priest was to offer (1Sa 13:1, 12-14). He thought he was important enough to do it himself.
 - a) Pride was already puffing up his heart.
 - b) Note 1Samuel 13:14. Saul was no longer a man after God's own heart.
 - c) If you will always seek to be a man or woman after God's own heart, God will bless you and will use you

for His glory.

- d) Pride was the first offence Saul committed against the Lord (1Ch 10:13).
- 2) He was no longer little in his own sight (1Sa 15:17).
 - a) He started out humble, but his power and position made him think highly of himself.
 - b) Pride is a terrible enemy.
 - (1) (Proverbs 8:13) "*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*"
 - (2) (Proverbs 16:18) "*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*"
 - (3) (Proverbs 29:23) "*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*"
 - c) Whenever we become proud, we stop fearing God and we push Him off the throne of our heart.

b. In his pride he tried to kill David

- 1) When David was a young man of about 18, he killed the giant Goliath. Saul was proud of him at first, but before long, David became more popular than Saul and in prideful jealousy, he tried to kill David.
- 2) More than once, Saul threw a javelin at David to kill him (1Sa 18:10-11).
- 3) The next verse explains the **heart** of the problem (1Sa 18:12).
- 4) For the next 11 years, Saul in proud jealousy sought to kill David. He hunted him continually.

The second sin that dethroned Saul was ...

2. Disobedience (1Chronicles 10:13)

a. Saul did not keep the Word of the Lord.

- 1) God gave him orders and he did not obey.
- 2) Disobedience is a very serious sin.
- 3) Children, when you do not obey Dad or Mum, you are disobeying God because God told you to obey them. That is serious.

b. Saul disobeyed by not destroying Amalek.

- 1) When yet a new king, God told Saul to destroy Amalek because of the sins of that nation (1Sa 15:1-3).
- 2) Notice carefully exactly what God told him to do.
- 3) Sometimes we disobey because we do **not listen carefully** to commands. Other times we disobey because we **only obey part** of the command. That was Saul's problem here (1Sa 15:8-9). He partly obeyed, but not fully.
- 4) Saul's partial obedience troubled God and grieved Samuel (1Sa 15:11).
- 5) Samuel rebuked Saul (1Sa 15:12-19).
- 6) Saul foolishly made excuses for his disobedience (1Sa 15:20-21). He even tried to act spiritual claiming he was going to sacrifice the animals he had kept. Isn't that just like what we do? We justify our sin. We make excuses. We blame others for our sin. We act spiritual. **None of that works with God!**
- 7) Then, Samuel dropped the bomb on Saul (1Sa 15:22-23).
 - a) God delights in obedience.
 - b) To obey is better than to sacrifice.
 - c) Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (a capital offence).
 - d) By rejecting God's word, Saul would lose his throne.
- 8) Christian, you cannot disobey God and get away with it. There will be payday someday. The Bible is abundant with examples like Lot's wife, Jezebel, man of God at Bethel, Jonah, and Ananias to name a few.

Pride, Disobedience ... The third sin that dethroned Saul was ...

3. Sorcery (1Chronicles 10:13)

a. Saul asked counsel from a witch

- 1) After 40 years of reigning as king of Israel without God's help, Saul was a nervous wreck. The Philistines were preparing for battle against him. (1 Samuel 28:5) "*And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.*"
- 2) His former spiritual counsellor, Samuel, was now dead.
- 3) He had so many unconfessed sins in his life that God