



Saul, The First King

Samuel chose and anointed Saul as a king to protect Israel from enemies and rule the people according to the Law of God.

Saul belonged to the tribe of Benjamin who were agriculturalists. When he continued to till the land even after he was chosen the king, people wondered if he was fit to rule Israel.



One day a messenger came to inform Saul about the Ammonites who were troubling the Israelites. He immediately raised an army and defeated the enemy. Samuel assembled the people at a holy place called Gilgal and proclaimed Saul as their king.

Soon after this public coronation, their arch enemy, the Philistines, attacked the Israelites. Saul remained at Gilgal waiting for Samuel to offer the customary burnt offering before the battle. Since the prophet did not arrive for seven days he decided to offer the sacrifice himself.

Samuel was horrified when he came to know that the king had performed the rite of a priest. He rebuked Saul, prophesying that the Lord would appoint another prince because the king had not kept His command.

Thus, the two incidents at Gilgal marked the rise and fall of Saul's reign.

Saul continued to rule over Israel and emerged victorious over the Philistines and also defeated its other enemies. But his wars were political actions rather than sacred ones.

Samuel remained unhappy with the king for not observing the Law and proving a bad choice. He set about looking for a new king despite his advancing age. He was guided by God and anointed David, the son of Jesse, before he died at a ripe age.



Word of God

1 Samuel 13: 11 – 14

...but Samuel said, "What have you done?"

Saul answered, "The people were deserting me, and you had not come when you said you would; besides that, the Philistines are gathering at Michmash. So I thought, 'The Philistines are going to attack me here in Gilgal, and I have not tried to win the Lord's favor.' So I felt I had to offer a sacrifice."

"That was a foolish thing to do," Samuel answered. "You have not obeyed the command the Lord your God gave you. If you had obeyed, he would have let you and your descendants rule over Israel forever. But now your rule will not continue. Because you have disobeyed him, the Lord will find the kind of man he wants and make him ruler of his people."

Insight

**H.C. Mukherjee, Vice-president,
Constituent Assembly**

Harendra Coomar Mukherjee was the vice-president of the Constituent Assembly of India for drafting the country's Constitution. He was an educationalist and a Christian leader from Bengal. He was nominated to the Bengal Legislative Council and later elected to Bengal Legislative Assembly. He also served as the Governor of West Bengal from 1951 until his death in 1956.

Notes

Know Now

QUOTE: “Saul was rejected by God as King of Israel because he disobeyed, preferring to listen to the people rather than the will of God. The people, after a victory in battle, wanted to offer a sacrifice of the best animals to God, because, he said, “It’s always been done that way,” ...the sin of so many Christians who cling to what has always been done and do not allow others to change. And they end up with half a life, patched, mended, meaningless.” Pope Francis

my TASK this week

To Watch

To Read

To Do



Scan For Help



Home

Watch the video Saul gets anointed: <https://bit.ly/2KmV2ea>