



Chronicles of Israel

A study on Israel, her kings, and truth versus consequence

Magnolia Bible Church Alexander Sunday Bible Study | Lesson #2 – August 9, 2026

God's Judgment of King Saul (1 Chronicles 10:1 – 14)

Provided in the table below is a high-level overview of 1st and 2nd Chronicles. As we go through this series it will be useful to keep this overview in mind. In this lesson we'll be focused on the reign of Saul, the first king of Israel.

Chapters	Content	Significance
1 Chronicles 1 – 9	Genealogies, emphasis on tribes of Judah and Levi	Preparing the stage for the Kingdom of Judah and the priestly tribe
1 Chronicles 10	Reign of Saul	Transition to David's Kingdom; declaration that the throne belonged to the tribe of Judah
1 Chronicles 11 – 29	Reign of David	Phase 1 of the ideal Kingdom; detailed preparation for the Temple
2 Chronicles 1 – 9	Reign of Solomon	Phase 2 of the ideal Kingdom; construction and installation of the Temple
2 Chronicles 10 – 26	Kings of Judah	Succession of kings, all of whom were descended from David; implemented the standards of David and Solomon to varying degrees

Listed below are some facts about Saul.

- Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- Saul failed to follow instructions from Samuel and the Lord sent an evil spirit to indwell Saul.
- David became Saul's son-in-law.
- Saul was extremely jealous of David and tried to kill him on several occasions.
- Saul ordered the killing of priests and their families because they assisted David.
- Saul consulted the witches of Endor before going into battle (the day before he died).
- After being wounded in battle, Saul fell on his sword to avoid being taken by the Philistines.

In this lesson we'll be in 1 Chronicles; however, "eager students" are encouraged to read (or scan) 1 Samuel 9 through 31 that deals mostly with Saul's reign, David's anointing as king (while Saul was still king), and Saul trying to kill David. Because of his consistent disobedience, the Bible tells us that "The Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him." (1 Samuel 16:14). In many regards, Saul's life is sad and an example of what to NOT do. He didn't trust God, was jealous of those around him, was disobedient, and was extremely paranoid. Ultimately, God removed him from the throne with no potential for his sons to be successors.



Questions

1. As you recall different parts of Saul's life, were there times when he had faith in God? When did he not have faith?
2. What are some specific actions Saul could have taken that would have produced different outcomes for his life?
3. List at least five "significant" mistakes Saul made. Feel free to use text from 1 Samuel 9 through 31 in developing your answer.
4. What were some of the reasons that Saul hated David and tried to kill him?
5. Why does God judge human beings rather than just forgiving their sins?
6. Explore some of the ways in which God's judgement is a necessary provision for understanding His grace towards us.

Next Meeting (Lesson #3): In our next lesson we'll read 1 Chronicles 11:1 – 16:43 and discuss the early stages of the reign of David.