

Bible Class Notes – Studies in The Old Testament – Lesson 91

Judgement and Deliverance

This week – We continue our series on how God blesses those who exercise faith in Him.

*Samuel said (to Saul), “Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.”
1 Samuel 15 v22*

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	I Samuel 13 v1-14 (Saul judged for acting as priest)	
Monday	I Samuel 14 v24-45 (Saul turns against his own son)	
Tuesday	I Samuel 15 v1-23 (Saul disobeys God)	
Wednesday	I Samuel 15 v24-35 (Samuel turns away from Saul)	
Thursday	I Samuel 28 v1-19 (Saul consults a witch)	
Friday	I Samuel 31 v1-13 (The sad end of Saul - judgement)	
Saturday	James 4 v1-17 (God is against the proud)	

Important Thought for us Today: There are signs that show whether we have truly sought and found the Lord. Saul, a God fearer - initially humble, appearing repentant, never showed these signs. We must prayerfully and honestly ask ourselves - Do we?

- 1) Do we have a great concern about our sin and feel great need for God to pardon us?
- 2) Do we have a desire to read God’s Word, to understand it and obey it?
- 3) Do we have a strong sense of attachment and belonging to God’s people?
- 4) Have we discovered prayer; finding time to daily talk with God, praising Him, seeking His help?
- 5) Have we seen a great change within us desiring to leave old sinful ways behind and daily growing more like Him (sanctification) through prayer, Bible reading, and obedience?
- 6) Do we have the peace of God’s forgiveness and a sense of belonging to Him (assurance)?
- 7) Are we in a spiritual warfare where the Devil attacks with new temptations, doubts and fears?

A hymn recognising our need to totally and unselfishly depend upon the Lord: (382)

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| <p>1. O the bitter shame and sorrow,
That a time could ever be
When I let the Saviour’s pity
Plead in vain, and proudly answered,
‘All of self, and none of Thee.’</p> <p>2. Yet! He found me; I beheld Him
Bleeding on the accursed tree,
Heard Him pray, ‘Forgive them Father!’
And my wistful heart said faintly,
‘Some of self, and some of Thee.’</p> | <p>3. Day by day His tender mercy,
Healing, helping, full and free,
Sweet and strong, and O! so patient,
Brought me lower, while I whispered,
‘Less of self, and more of Thee.’</p> <p>4. Higher than the highest Heaven,
Deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord, Thy love at last has conquered;
Grant me now my soul’s desire,
‘None of self, and all of Thee.’</p> |
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The Rise and Fall of a Proud King.

• The Disastrous Consequences of Pride.

- God gave Saul great and wonderful opportunities for a blessed and useful life which he proudly rejected. He rebelled against God’s Word and His commands causing the **ups** in his life to be vastly outweighed by the **downs**.

• Up: Success – Saul Quickly Grows in Popularity.

- Rising from a humble farmer’s boy to being crowned the first King of Israel.
- He successfully led his army against the Philistines.

Pride caused him to take all the credit of victory to himself instead of giving it all to God.

• Danger Zone: Saul Knows God’s Word but in Pride Rejects It.

- Saul knew that a sacrifice should be only made to God by a Priest of God.
 - But Samuel, God’s appointed Priest, is delayed.
 - Saul impatiently assumes the Priest’s role - sacrificing to God, sinning greatly
- Pride caused him to think he was worthy and could do anything, expecting God to be pleased with him despite his disobedience. His pride opened him up to every other sin.*

Beware of being proud like Saul! It will only bring us down with tragic consequences.

• Down: Saul Despises God’s Word - Again.

- God had instructed that the evil Amalekites were to be utterly destroyed.
- But Saul had kept King Agag alive, and had kept all the Amalekite’s possessions.
- **Saul’s Sin Exposed as Samuel Meets Him - Saul:**

- **Used deceit** - He tried to cover up – ‘I have kept God’s commandment.’
- **Blamed others** - ‘The people decided to keep the best animals.’
- **Made hopeless excuses** - He lied, ‘We kept the animals for sacrifice to God.’

It is a common human trait to make all sorts of excuses for sin – but God looks for repentance.

• Down: Vicious Behaviour.

- Saul became a moody, vicious, evil-tempered man, even to his own son.
- He forced Samuel to retreat from him – his kingdom was torn by civil-war.

• Down: Desperate Measures.

- Saul, driven to despair, turning his back on God, secretly consults a witch.
- Saul, suffering a disastrous defeat in battle, takes his own life. (1 Samuel 31)

• Do not believe this World’s lie: ‘Life without God is free and wonderful.’

History, and Saul’s life, prove to us that life without God ends with tragic consequences. *Only the Christian life gives ‘True freedom, peace, and happiness – now and for ever.’*

The Lord God warns the proud, *“And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.”*

Isaiah 13 v11

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

Micah 6 v8