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Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- The setting:
  - Saul has been anointed as the first king of Israel and given this commission:
    - *"Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Has not the Lord anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? **And you shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies...** (1 Samuel 10:1, ESV)*
  - Although he remains on the scene, Samuel has given his farewell address thus transitioning the time of the Judges to the era of the Monarchy.

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Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- Established a standing military force of 3000 over two years. 13:1-2
  - 2000 under Saul's command
  - 1000 under Jonathan's command

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Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- The first major engagement of the Philistines. 13:3-14:46
  - Provoked by Jonathan's attack and defeat of the Philistine garrison at Geba.
  - Saul responded by mustering all the fighting people of Israel.
  - In response to the attack, the Philistines gathered 30,000 chariots and 6000 horsemen and troops.
  - The Israelites in the area responded by hiding in every place they could find to hide and some crossed the Jordan.
  - The people who were following Saul were full of fear.

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4

Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- The first major engagement of the Philistines. 13:3-14:46
  - Saul reacted to the immanent threat of attack coupled by desertion of the people who had initially gathered to fight by offering the burnt offering which could only be offered by a priest. 13:8-15a
    - From Samuel's reply in verse 13 Saul had a clear command to wait for Samuel to arrive.
    - Saul panicked when Samuel did not come at the scheduled time and offered the burnt offering and the peace offering.

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5

Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- The first major engagement of the Philistines. 13:3-14:46
  - Saul reacted to the immanent threat of attack coupled by desertion of the people who had initially gathered to fight by offering the burnt offering which could only be offered by a priest. 13:8-15a
    - God's judgment was to pronounce an end to Saul's kingdom and to choose another to rule over His people.
    - Samuel did not remain with Saul.

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6

Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- The first major engagement of the Philistines. 13:3-14:46
  - Circumstances surround this engagement. 13:15b-23
  - Saul only had 600 people who had remained with him.
  - The Philistines send raiding parties out in three different directions.
  - The Israelites were poorly armed due to the ongoing oppression of the Philistines who had not allowed them to have blacksmiths so they could not produce weapons. The only weapons were the swords of Saul and Jonathan.

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Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- The first major engagement of the Philistines. 13:3-14:46
  - Jonathan again takes the initiative in engaging the Philistines. 14:1-5
    - Saul was sitting in the shade with his remaining 600 men.
    - Ahijah, descendent of Eli, and therefore a priest was serving in that capacity in Shiloh.

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8

Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- The first major engagement of the Philistines. 13:3-14:46
  - Jonathan and his armor bearer engaged the Philistine garrison and throw them into confusion. 14:6-23
    - Saul reacted by doing a roll call to see who was missing and discovered it was Jonathan and his armor bearer.
    - Saul called for Ahijah to discern the action God had for them to take but true to his impulsive nature, did not wait for an answer.
      - Some sources translate "ark" here as ephod although the Hebrew text has the regular word usually translated as the ark of the covenant.
      - However, it was the ephod which contained the Urim and Thummim that was used to discern God's will.

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9

Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- The first major engagement of the Philistines.
  - Jonathan and his armor bearer engaged the Philistine garrison and throw them into confusion. 14:6-23
    - When Saul's forces joined the battle the Philistines were thrown into confusion and ended up fighting each other.
    - The Hebrews who had gone over to the Philistines began to fight against them.
    - The Israelites who had hidden came out and joined the battle.
    - God gave the Israelites victory over the Philistines.

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10

Lessons

- God will provide opportunities for us to do what He has clearly called us to do.
- The clear commandments of God must never be overridden by the fear of people and circumstances.
- We can cut ourselves off from blessings God desires to give us.

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