

## The Book of 1 Samuel

# 10

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we finish reading the book of **1 Samuel**, this time focusing on the last half of the book – **chapters 16-31**. This segment brings us into the reign of Israel's first king, Saul, and introduces the main character of **2 Samuel** – David – who would ascend the throne after Saul.

Much of the narrative of **1 Samuel** revolves around Israel's conflict with the Philistines, a people living in five major cities along the southern coastline of Canaan. The name Palestine, which the Romans applied to the land of Israel, is derived from the word Philistine. The name "Philistine" means "migrants," for they themselves had originally migrated to Canaan from elsewhere. Right through the book of **Judges**, they proved to be a thorn in the side of Israel, particularly in the southern regions, and this continues well into the reign of David in **2 Samuel**.

The book of **1 Samuel** records five main instances of Israel's conflict with the Philistines:

- The capture of the Ark of the Covenant (**4:1-7:1**)
- The subduing of the Philistines under Samuel (**7:2-14**)
- The heroism of Jonathan (**13:23-23**)
- The defeat of Goliath (**17:1-58**)
- The death of Saul (**31:1-13**)

Remember that the narrative of **1 Samuel** is preparing the ground for David's reign, which is recorded in **2 Samuel**. Throughout this book we see the preparations of the Lord in David's life, expressed in his attitude toward the Lord himself, toward Saul (as the Lord's "anointed") and toward the enemies of God.

So let's pull up a comfortable chair and read the second half of **1 Samuel** – **chapters 16-31** – in one sitting. As you read, see if you can note the differences between the attitudes of Saul and David toward the throne and toward the Lord.

# Memory Verse

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-24

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!