

Three Great Failures

Romans 12:1-3

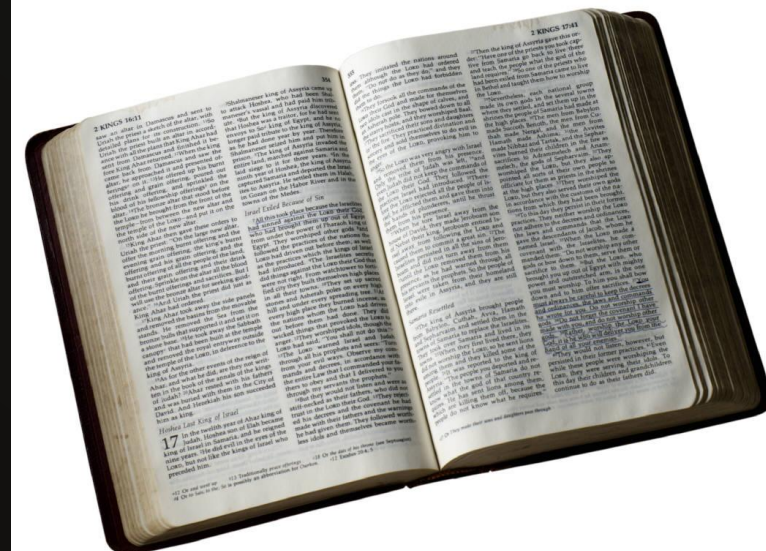


Three Great Failures

- Good to review God's examples
 - **I Corinthians 10:11, "Now these things happened unto them by way of example, and are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come."** (Ref. to Israelites)

- Old Testament....

- ¾ of Bible
- Provides instruction
- Provides inspiration
- Provides warnings



A Look Back

- Israel, great nation under God's guidance
 - Promise to Abraham, **Genesis 12**
 - Isaac, Jacob & 12 tribes
 - Leadership of Moses & Joshua
 - Periods of Judges and Kings
- Israel at its peak (**KINGS**)
 - Saul, David, Solomon
 - Tribute & praise made to God's people
 - Then, the demise of Israel



Three Kings, Much In Common

- Each chosen by God to lead His people
- Each had great skills & abilities
- Each towered over contemporaries
- Each accomplished outstanding deeds
- Each began reign with great promise
- Each ended reigns in failure
- Each now **INSPIRE** us & each **WARN** us



The Desire For a King

- Israel Wanted Be Like Everyone Else

- **1 Samuel 8:5**, ***“The people came to Samuel and said: Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto Jehovah. And Jehovah said unto Samuel, Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee; for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not be king over them.”***



The Desire For a King

- Samuel's pleads with Israel

- 1 Samuel 8:19-22, *“the people refused to hearken unto the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of Jehovah. And Jehovah said unto Samuel, Harken unto their voice, and make them a king.”*



King Saul

- Saul, the ideal king
 - **1 Samuel 9:1-2**, *“Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish ... And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a young man and a goodly; and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.”*
 - *Fine Specimen of a man*
 - *Good man, Modest man, Humble man*



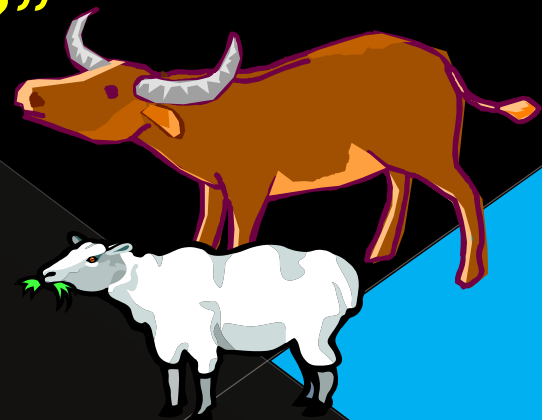
King Saul

- Israel Had Their King
- **1 Samuel 10:24**, *“Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom Jehovah hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, Long live the king.”*
- Saul’s humility soon fades
 - **1 Samuel 13:13-14**, *“Thou hast done foolishly, thou hast not kept the commandment of Jehovah thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would have Jehovah established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue”*



King Saul

- **Saul's Continues Self-Exaltation**
 - **1 Samuel 15:3**, Saul commanded to destroy the Amalakites, ***“utterly destroy all...”***
 - Saul's returns with their king & spoils of war
 - **1 Samuel 15:14**, ***“What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”***
 - **1 Samuel 15:23**, ***“thou hath rejected the word of Jehovah, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”***



King Saul

- Self-centeredness lead to jealousy
 - David, young shepherd boy, kills Goliath
 - Multitudes sing, ***“Saul hath slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.”***
 - **1 Samuel 16:6-8**, Saul greatly displeased, ***“They have ascribed unto David ten thousands and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.”*** .



King David

- From shepherd to king
 - Young shepherd boy, good family, loving father
 - No fear in facing wild animals & warrior
 - Courageous, full of faith, loyal to friends & God
- From stardom to shame
 - **2 Samuel 11:1-5**, *“David...walked upon the roof of the king’s house; And from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon...David sent messengers, and took her...and he lay with her...And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, I am with child.”*



King David

- From stardom to shame
 - Involved Joab in a scheme to deceive Uriah
 - Lied to him & got him drunk, **2 Sam. 11:6-13**
 - Wrote letter implementing plan to kill Uriah
 - Letter to Joab, **2 Samuel 11:14-15** “...Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and then retreat from him, the he may be struck down”
 - God displeased
 - **2 Samuel 11:27**, “David...brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.”



King David

- David faced his sins
 - 2 Samuel 12:1-6, Nathan tells David a story
 - 2 Samuel 12:7-9, Identifies David's sin
 - 2 Samuel 12:10-12, Consequences of sin
 - 2 Samuel 12:13-14, David repents
 - Psalm 51, 1-3, *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.”*



King Solomon

- **Solomon, Solomon, Solomon**
 - **Most powerful king of Israel**
 - **Wisest king of Israel**
 - **Wealthiest king of Israel**
 - **Ships known as far away as Spain.**
 - **Copper mines, livestock**
 - **Great wealth & tribute paid to Solomon from nations around**



King Solomon

- **Example of Solomon's Greatness**
 - **1 King 3:5, "the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what shall I give thee."**
 - **1 King 3:7-9, "O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in...Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"**



King Solomon

- Solomon's Grievous error

- **1 King 11:1-4**, ***Solomon loved many foreign women...of the nations concerning which Jehovah said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you; for surely they will turn away your hearts after other gods...He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines; and his wives turned away his heart...when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Jehovah his God, as was the heart of David his father.***



Three Great Failures

- **Saul, A giant of man in many ways**
 - Destroyed by self-centeredness, and pride
- **David, “A man after God’s own heart”**
 - Destroyed by deceit, adultery, & murder
- **Solomon, wisest ,wealthiest , and most powerful man in the world**
 - Destroyed by lust for power, wealth, and evil companions

Avoid Failure

- **BELIEVE** in Jesus w/all your heart
John 8:24
- **REPENT** of sins in your life
Luke 13:3
- **CONFESS** Jesus as God's Son
Acts 8:37
- **BAPTIZED** for remission of sin
Acts 2:38
- **FAITHFUL** until death
Rev. 2:10

