

just accept the ways of the Lord and live them out is a great source of spiritual ineffectiveness for it sometimes has us ahead of the Lord and at other times we trail Him by leagues. Saul typifies this in many ways although we need to remember that he also had some effective service as well and if he had been patient with God it would have been much greater. The Biblical passages listed are primary but some of our emphasis will depend on later passages as well.

II. Discussion Saul's impatience with the ways of God is seen in several aspects and I note the following in particular:

- A. The timing of God....as seen in Samuel's instruction for Saul to wait for him at Gilgal to learn what the Lord would have him do...both in 9:7 and 13:8. In the case of the former it is not so obvious but in the case of the latter Saul will proceed to make the priestly offering himself seeing that he does not want to wait longer for Samuel. His precipitous nature allows him to determine his own time frames and this leads to displeasing the Lord. It is not his worst problem but is an aggravating circumstance.
- B. The Orders (arrangement) of God...as seen in chapter 13 where he undertakes the offering by himself. This was not the revealed method of God and his impetuosity indicates many more problems to come. It will be seen later in his hatred of David and his resentment of the fact that in the kingly role his family does not have a permanent place.
- C. The requirements of God...both for priestly and for kingly service. Saul would prefer to "write his own ticket" as we say it today the orders of God are always to be taken as basic and necessary data. I might add that this is one of the great tests of our day and while I am not a predictive prophet, I believe it will become more of a challenge in our immediate future.

III. Conclusion: As I have, or should have, noted, Saul did some effective things but the overall result of his monarch is a record of spiritual ineffectiveness as indicated by the rejection of God. His stewardship was not the exhibition of faithfulness that it should have been largely because of this matter of impatience with the ways of God. Putting his own ways in place of those of the Lord did not help matters and eventually led to his rejection and disgrace.

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