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Analysis of Saul’s Sin

Saul was a very important person for the Israelites in biblical times. When Israel became a monarchy, Saul was chosen to be the very first king by God himself. This was a very important time for the Israelites. It provided a boundary between priests and kings. Not much time later, Saul was going to war with the Philistines in 1 Samuel 13. Before going in to battle, Samuel was supposed to offer and offering to God. He was given seven days to show up and after seven days, there was no sign of Samuel. 1 Samuel chapter thirteen states, “So Saul said, ‘Bring the burnt offering here to me…’, and he offered the burnt offerings” (1 Samuel 13:9). This was considered a sin and it was the time in which Saul’s reign as king of Israel comes to an end.

What Saul did was considered a sin based on one key idea. Saul defied the commandment that God gave to him. Samuel was supposed to offer the burnt offerings, but Saul saw his people leaving him and took it in to his own hands to do so. Kings are appointed to rule over the people and were not supposed to do what Saul did. Samuel, a high priest, was the only person authorized by God to do what Saul did. Verse thirteen in chapter thirteen of 1 Samuel states, “… Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which he commanded you’…” (1 Samuel 13:13).

Samuel was very upset with Saul’s actions. Since Saul committed the sin, Samuel immediately told Saul that his kingdom was not going to go on. In verse thirteen and fourteen Samuel states, “… The Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever, but now your kingdom will not continue;” (1 Samuel 13:13-14). This means from that point forward, God would not see Saul as the kind of Israel. God then starts to look for a new king, eventually picking David to rule of Israel. Saul’s heritage would never be king of Israel again.

Although this chapter is 1 Samuel portrays Saul as a very bad kind, one may be able to interpret it in a different way. Saul was appointed the first King of Israel. His men were scared of the face that they were heavily outnumbered. He waited a whole seven days for Samuel to show up, but he never did. Saul then took the initiative and offered the burnt offerings himself since Samuel did not come when he told him he would and Saul’s people began to run away from him. If he had waited any longer, he wouldn’t have an army to fight with (1 Samuel 13:8-9).

All in all, the acts of Saul in 1 Samuel chapter thirteen can be viewed in different aspects. One viewpoint could be that Saul was doing what he had to do, because Samuel was not showing up to offer the offerings to God. What really happens in the bible God ends Saul’s kingdom. In God’s eyes, he committed a great sin, one great enough to immediately strip him of his kingship.

Works Cited

Coogan, Michael David. "1 Samuel 13." *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: With the Apocrypha*. Fully Rev. 4th ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2010. Print.