

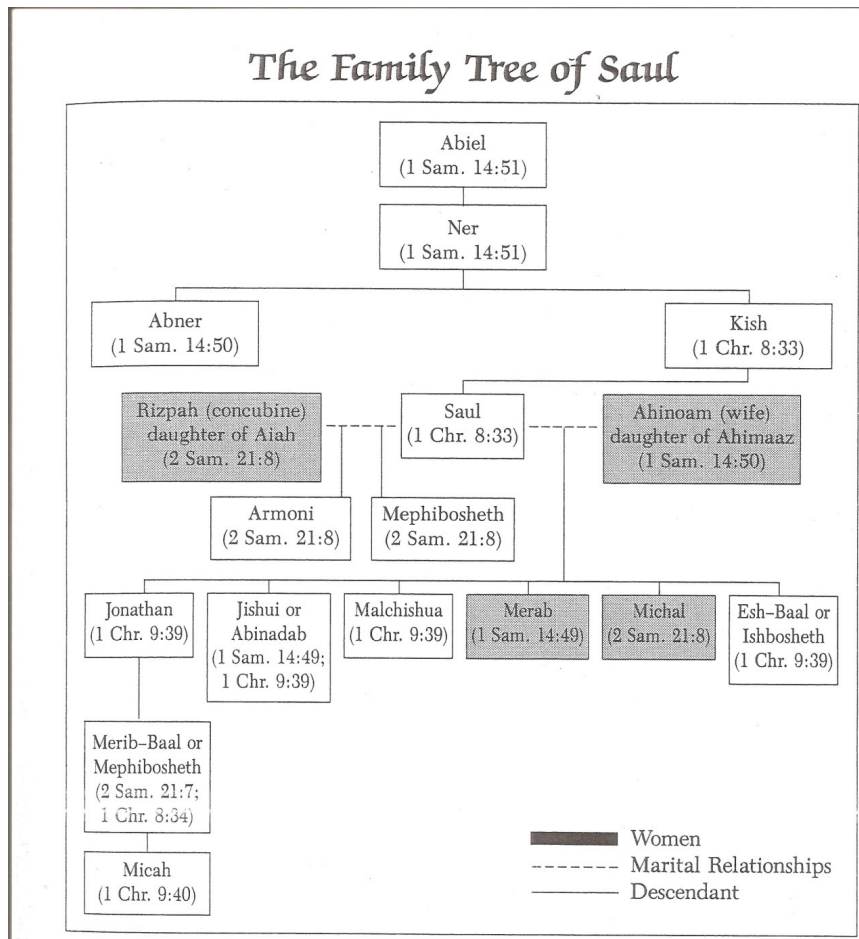
Unpacking the Book

#8 United Kingdom: Under Saul

I. A quick review

II. The United Kingdom under Saul

- A. The transition from Judges (Samuel) to Saul.
 - 1. Samuel's sons (1 Samuel 8:1-4)
 - 2. Israel asks for a King (1 Samuel 8:4-21)
 - a. Implications of having a King (1 Samuel 8:11-18)
 - 3. Saul's background (1 Samuel 9:1-2)



(Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts, p. 99)

4. Samuel anoints Saul (1 Samuel 10:1)

Notice that God changes Saul's heart (1 Samuel 10:6,9)

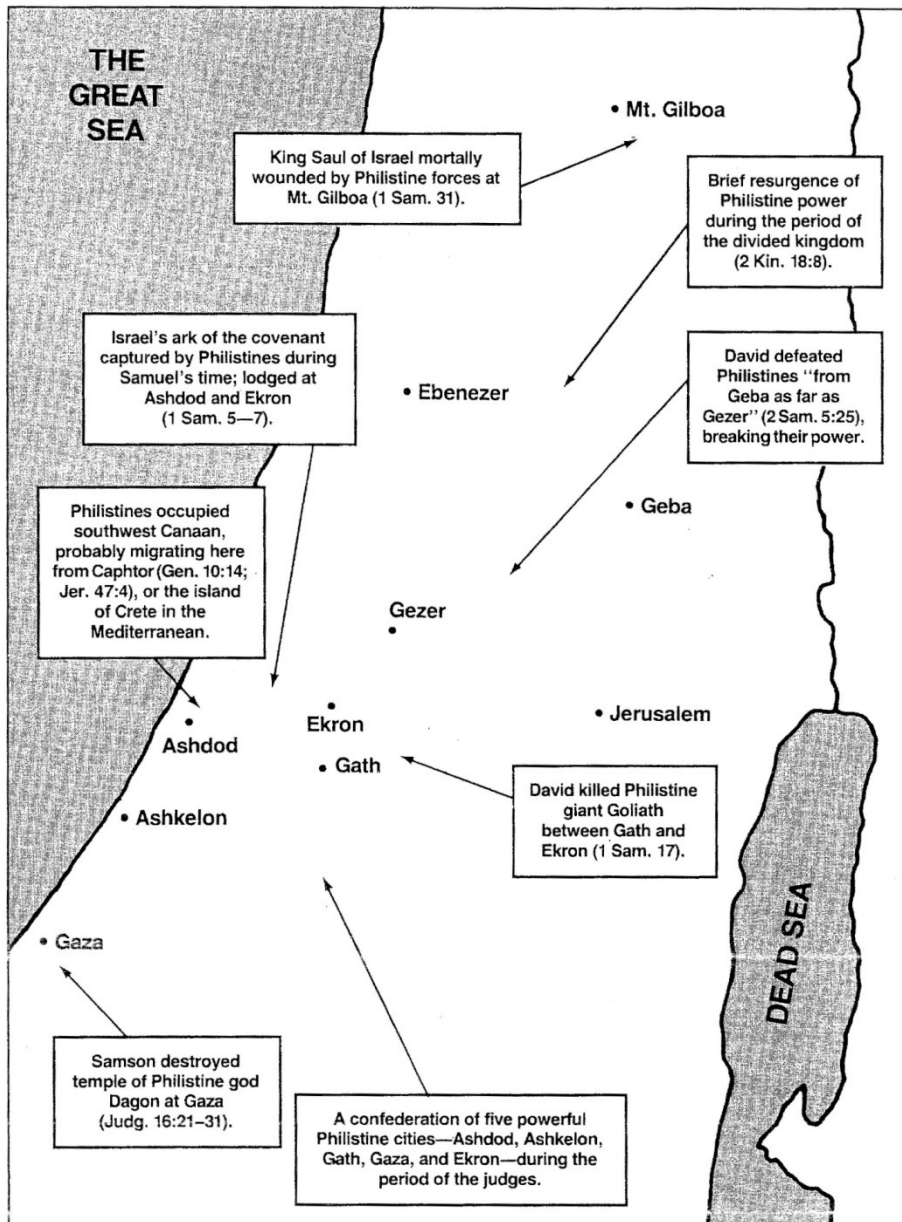
5. Note the "transition time" between Samuel and Saul (1 Samuel 11:7)

6. Saul is confirmed as King (1 Samuel 11:12)

Note Samuel's farewell speech confirming Saul (1 Samuel 12:1-25)

B. Saul and his wars

The Philistine Threat

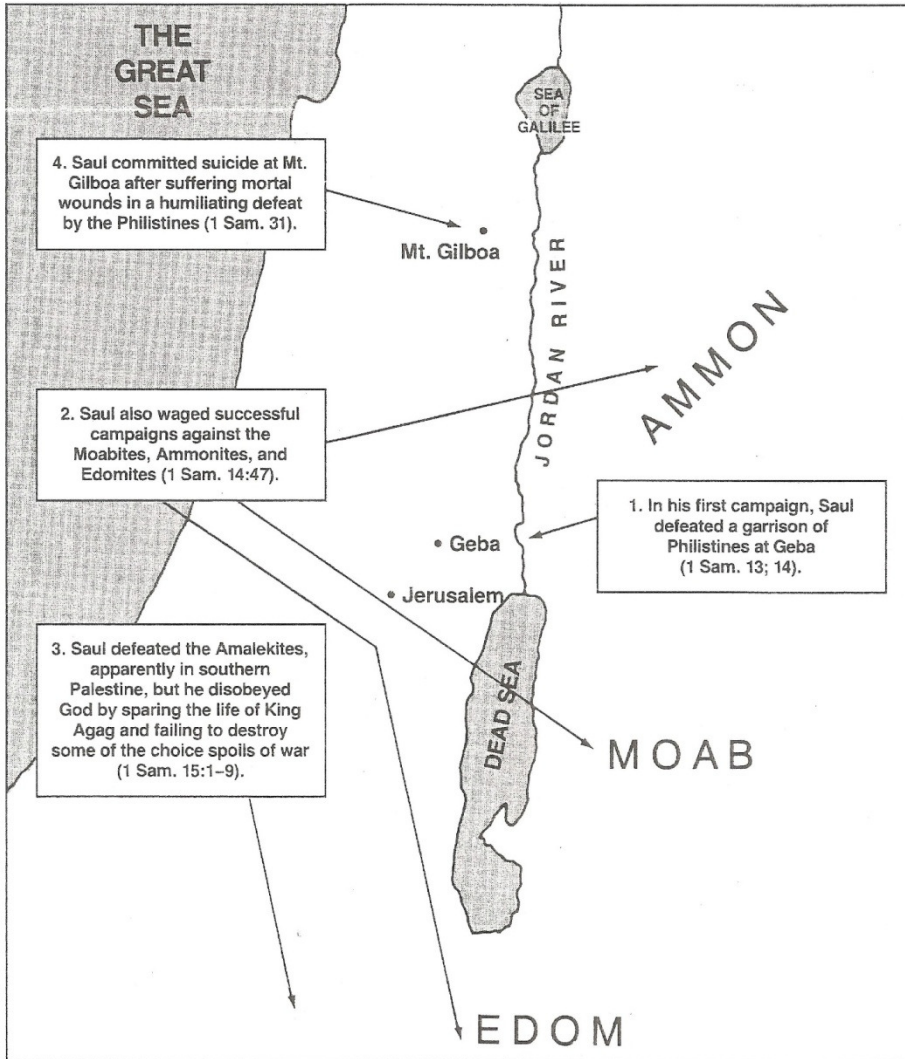


The Philistines had a monopoly on the iron market of the day.

(Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts, p. 97)

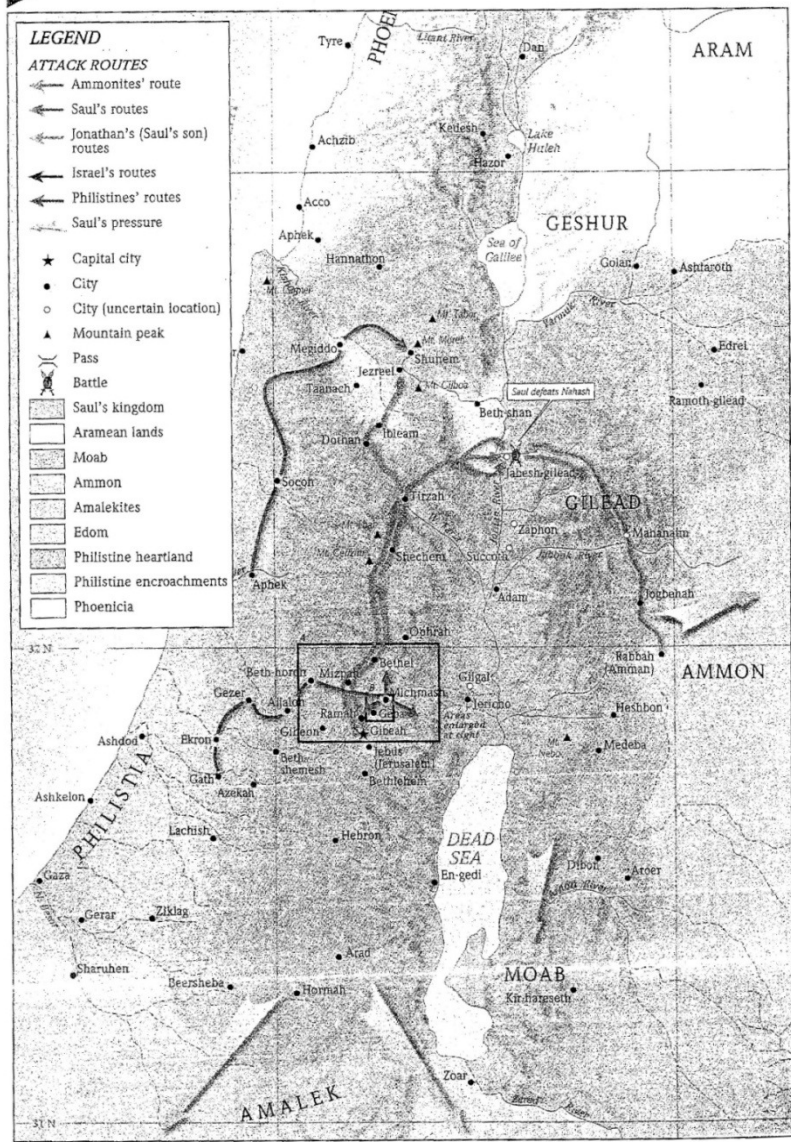
Saul's Military Campaigns

As the first king of the united kingdom of Israel, Saul's major task was to subdue the nation's enemies. At first, he won several decisive battles. But his campaigns bogged down when he turned his attention to David, attempting to wipe out what he perceived as a threat to his power. Saul and his sons were eventually killed by the Philistines.



(Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts, p. 100)

62 THE KINGDOM OF SAUL AND HIS WARS



(Holman Quick Source, p. 158)

- C. Saul's Reign
 1. His early successes (1 Samuel 13:1-4)
 2. His early failures (1 Samuel 13:5-15:9)

D. King Saul's Decline and Fall

| Causes | Results |
|--------------------------|--|
| A presumptuous sacrifice | Loss of Kingdom foretold (1 Sam. 13:14) |
| A foolish curse | Curse falls on Jonathan (1 Sam. 14:24, 44) |
| Spared Agag and flocks | Loss of kingdom (1 Sam. 15:28) |
| Lost fellowship with God | Unanswered prayer (1 Sam. 28:6) |
| Visits a medium | Doom predicted (1 Sam. 28:19) |
| Takes his own life | End of dynasty (1 Sam. 31:4, 6) |

(Nelson's Book of Bible Maps & Charts, p. 98)

E. Saul is rejected as King (1 Samuel 15:10-18:9)

1. God rejects Saul (1 Samuel 15:10-35)
2. God anoints David as King (1 Samuel 16:13-14)
3. God removes His spirit from Saul (1 Samuel 16:14-23)

III. So What?

A. The character of Saul is instructive

1. Acts rashly and thoughtlessly (1 Samuel 13:8-9, 13:24, 14:19)
2. Tends to blame everyone else (1 Samuel 13:11, 15:20-21)
3. Misplaces his spiritual emphasis (1 Samuel 15:22)
4. Lacks mental/emotional stability

B. Bottom line: Saul has not heart. David has a whole heart. Solomon has a half a heart (adapted from Walk Thru the Bible)

Discussion Question:

What does it take to be a man/woman after God's own heart? (Acts 13:22)