

False Christs and False Prophets

Part 9

By Boyd Yahn

Hello all, it is January the 3rd of 2025, and we are basking in the glow of just about -30C tonight (-22F) or right now at the moment, so it's a good time to be inside the walls instead of outside of them. When we were finishing up part 8 of the False Christs and False Prophets series, ah, I just ran out of time.

0:00:27

For those who don't know, I must limit time to no more than about 52 minutes because the file size gets too big to send out this way. The next passage of what I just got up to was I Samuel 15, and we'd seen in the previous message, when we looked in I Samuel 3 of how it was when it was time for Yehovah to begin working with Samuel for him to become a prophet in Israel.

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I Samuel 15 records a part of his responsibility and actions as a prophet to Israel. So, let's pick up the story there. I Samuel 15; we are going to spend a lot of time in I Samuel today. I think there is a very important lesson there for us all. (Verse 1)

¹Samuel also said to Saul, "Yehovah sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of Yehovah. ²Thus says Yehovah of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.'

0:01:44

So, we learn here that the descendants of Amalek were picking away at Israel when they came out of Egypt, and somehow God noticed and hadn't really forgotten that they did. Well, when I read that, I thought, hum, it says and it's recorded that vengeance is God's. So, it would appear that its vengeance time, and it made me look up Deuteronomy 32 where that is actually recorded with regards to vengeance.

0:02:25

Deuteronomy 32, verse 35 tells us that:

³⁵Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; their foot shall slip in due time; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things to come hasten upon them.'

Now we want to focus on the first part of that. God is saying that vengeance it His, and if somebody is to be recompensed it will be Him that's doing it.

0:02:50

We see that repeated in the New Testament; actually, in a couple of places. Romans 12 is one of them. So, let's look at that. Romans 12, verses 19 – 21.

¹⁹Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says Yehovah. ²⁰Therefore "If your enemy is

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hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

0:03:31

This same passage is mentioned for us in Hebrews 10, so I think it's important that we look at that. Hebrews 10, verses 28 – 31. Hebrews 10, verse 28.

²⁸Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

This is putting into context of where we are at here.

²⁹Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing,

0:04:16

Didn't put any value in it.

and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the LORD. And again, “The LORD (Yehovah) will judge His people.”³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

0:04:37

So, that's just an interesting background thought that we might just want to have in place as we roll ahead with this study.

0:04:46

Does Yehovah, or can Yehovah choose to use human instruments to accomplish His will, when He feels it is time to do so? Well, let's go on in verse 3 (of I Samuel 15).

³ Now go (the directive is to Israel) and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.”

0:05:26

That's quite an assignment if you will. Well, does He always have to do it that way, does He always work through human instruments? I think it becomes important for us to at least look at the spectrum of how God actually does things. And we've used this passage before where God doesn't always have to use people to do His bidding, but He does, as we just read in first Samuel.

0:06:01

In Micah 1, verses 1 – 7

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¹The word of Yehovah that came to Micah...

So, it's God speaking.

²Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it! Let the Lord God be a witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple. ³For behold, Yehovah is coming out of His place; He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. ⁴The mountains will melt under Him, and the valleys will split like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. ⁵All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem? ⁶Therefore, I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, and I will uncover her foundations. ⁷All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, and all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; all her idols I will lay desolate, for she gathered it from the pay of a harlot, and they shall return to the pay of a harlot."

0:07:07

Sometimes God just takes matters into His own hands, and sometimes He works through people. And I think that is just a good thing to keep in mind of how He operates.

0:07:23

What we want to do here is to just carry on. The instruction (In I Samuel 15:3) was fairly straight forward.

⁴So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred-thousand-foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. ⁵And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. ⁶Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So, the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

0:07:58

So, you can see here, God has a pretty good memory about who did what. And those who helped them were spared, and the ones who didn't help them took it a little rough.

⁷And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. ⁸He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹ But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. ¹⁰Now the word of Yehovah came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me,

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God gave him an instruction through His prophet, and he pulled back and shirked his responsibility, and God certainly noticed and He brought it to the attention of His prophet. In God's eyes, Saul has not performed the commandments of God, as it says.

... And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to Yehovah all night. ¹²So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul,

0:09:23

This is very, very interesting.

it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

Well, that's interesting, you can see him suddenly becoming more interested in himself than in doing the will of Yehovah.

0:09:52

I can't say that I noticed that before, but there it is, large as life.

¹³Then Samuel went to Saul, (Verse 13) and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of Yehovah! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

We see Saul lying here. Samuel knew what Saul's instructions were, and that he, Saul, had not fulfilled what he was asked.

0:10:30

Let's go on to verse 14,

¹⁴But Samuel said,

He wasn't having any of the story.

"What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" ²⁰And Saul said

Well, they've

brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to Yehovah your God;

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Notice, he didn't say my God

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and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”

And then you can see him placing the blame for his disobedience on others. Isn't this starting to sound a whole bunch like the song and dance that went on in the garden?

0:11:09

Let's go on:

¹⁶Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what Yehovah said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” ¹⁷So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not Yehovah anoint you king over Israel? ¹⁸Now Yehovah sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ ¹⁹Why then did you not obey the voice of Yehovah? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of Yehovah?”

0:11:50

Just not doing what Yehovah said is a problem.

²⁰And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of Yehovah,

Lying again.

and gone on the mission on which Yehovah sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to Yehovah your God

0:12:27

Notice again, it's not Yehovah, my God.

in Gilgal.”

So, again he's lying, and Samuel was having absolutely none of it. It's interesting for me to watch and see here how, all of a sudden, it's not his God, it's Samuel's God. You know, I don't have to obey, it's his God, not my God. You're starting to see this and it makes sense where he would make a monument of himself.

0:13:07

Once Saul knew that the gig was up, and we'll find out why. Let's go through verse 22.

²²So Samuel (God's prophet) said: “Has Yehovah as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Yehovah? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion

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Which is where he was.

is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of Yehovah, He also has rejected you from being king.”

0:13:48

Once he was told that, you notice, verse 24.

²⁴Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of Yehovah and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

Now that might be legitimate, but it also could easily be an excuse where he allowed the concerns of others to interfere with his vision about and to God directly.

0:14:23

²⁵Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship Yehovah.” ²⁶But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of Yehovah, and Yehovah has rejected you from being king over Israel.”

Notice how enthusiastic he was about hearing that.

²⁷And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸So Samuel said to him, “Yehovah has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours,

0:15:09

You notice, he didn't identify him.

who is better than you.

You see how it took, and let's go and just look at this.

²⁹And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, (Speaking of Yehovah) that He should relent.” ³⁰Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship Yehovah your God.”

0:15:43

Same attitude, same issue. He acknowledged, but. You know, it's important for us to remember that as God is in the process of building His mind in the ekklesia, Satan is also busy building his mind in humans, if folks will, in fact, allow it. As I mentioned in verse 30, again you can see it's where, Yehovah, your God.

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If we go on, and what we want to do here is look and concentrate on the evolution of Saul's mind, and his transformation from where he was, into the mind of Satan. The whole story is really about that. If we go on to I Samuel 16 and well pick up the story a little more.

0:16:56

¹ Now Yehovah said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided for Myself a king among his sons."

And you notice,

² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."

0:17:27

So, the situation was a little tense, as you can well imagine. And Samuel knew of Saul's hostility, especially if he found out God was going to anoint somebody else to replace him. And you read through the text.

But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to Yehovah.'

0:17:51

Like there's a cover story in place here. But you can see the hostility of Saul towards God's prophet. This should not surprise us, given that Yehovah's prophets put His commandments first, while the other side, the other spirit would shun them. So, we can see we can see this creep into Saul as we go along.

0:18:23

Through the ongoing communication that we see between Yehovah and His prophet, we can see that the prophet, in spite of the issue that Saul would kill him; he just went ahead and did what he was told, living by every word of Yehovah in spite of the reigning king's reaction, Samuel did what he was told.

0:18:54

If we go to verse 14 here, we see something that I think is very interesting.

¹⁴ But the Spirit of Yehovah

Saul did have God's Holy Spirit. Ron Dart did a series, or a sermon I guess it was, some years back, outlining how God cleaned Saul up, gave him His Spirit, started him out with a clean slate and really polished him up to get on with the job that the people of Israel wanted.

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But here we find out that due to Saul's rebellion after David had been anointed. If you look at verse 13.

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of Yehovah came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. ¹⁴But the Spirit of Yehovah departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

0:20:05

Well, that's interesting. You know, did Saul have Yehovah's Holy Spirit? Well, yup. But when his replacement was chosen, long before David was actually ruling, Saul, having lost God's spirit, was given someone from the other team, you know, just to cause some problems. And that's not a one off. If we go to Judges 9; Judges 9 and verse 23, where we have recorded here.

²³God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech

0:20:48

So, will God send, whether that's a literal spirit or an attitude adjustment; will He send a spirit to do His bidding when He wants that? Well, the answer is, absolutely, yes, He will. And we notice He did it with Saul, but does it stop there? Well, let's have a look at II Corinthians 12, verses 7 – 9. God will do what He needs to do in His plan. II Corinthians 12, verse 7.

⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations,

0:21:37

And Paul was given a tremendous understanding.

a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

So, here we have a case where we have God's, one of His own apostles, and God assigned a spirit of Satan or a messenger of Satan, very likely a demonic personality, to keep Paul in check.

0:22:10

So, you know, going on, verse 8.

⁸Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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So, you know, there is a bit of a spectrum of response here, of what God will do, or have Christ do, exactly what they need in any particular situation. When one does not like to retain Yehovah in their knowledge, it opens a Pandora's box of potential problems. We have to be very careful with that.

0:23:03

Well, if we go back to our reading here in Saul's story, realizing the problem, his counselors or whatever, noticed a change. Verse 15 of I Samuel 16

¹⁵And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you."

0:23:28

It was so obvious they could see it.

¹⁶Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

0:23:50

Well, that's interesting. They realized the problem and seeing Saul's demeanor changed, they suggested a solution. How did they know that that was a solution? I have no idea, but it was. Saul thought it was a good idea, so let's read on in verses 20 – 23.

²⁰And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.

0:24:24

Saul had requested that David come.

²¹So David came to Saul and stood before him.

And notice.

And he loved him greatly,

He didn't know that David had been anointed to replace him yet. He loved him greatly.

and he became his armorbearer. ²²Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." ²³And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

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So, very likely he had been given some very direct and explicit instructions from God what he was to do. You know, as I said, it's not likely at this time that Saul knew that David had been anointed to replace him, and we see some actual confirmation of that in I Samuel 17, verses 55 – 58.

⁵⁵When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." ⁵⁶So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is." ⁵⁷Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. ⁵⁸And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

0:26:07

You know, we can see David standing here with Saul at the time. I don't believe at the time that he knew David was anointed to replace him. If we go on to I Samuel 18, let's read verses 1 – 9.

¹ Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ²Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. ³Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt. ⁵So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

0:27:17

You notice where Saul placed David.

⁶Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

0:27:46

Oops, we just stepped over the line.

⁸Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

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We can see, if we look, the spirit of envy, which is the opposite of the spirit of love, now placed in Saul. Satan is building his mind out in king Saul. David's demotion is recorded, and we can look at that if we just go on. (Verse 10)

¹⁰And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So, David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. ¹¹And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!"

0:29:00

He wanted to kill him.

But David escaped his presence twice. ¹²Now Saul was afraid of David, because Yehovah was with him, but had departed from Saul. ¹³Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand;

Where he was in charge of them all before.

and he went out and came in before the people.

0:29:35

You notice here that once envy, rather than love, was instilled in him, things started to grow quite a bit worse. David was demoted, but the driver was the mental capacity of the mental disposition of Saul, which was given to envy. When he couldn't kill him, you know, he threw his spear at him, you notice, in verse 17 that he's already plotting and scheming for the fix.

¹⁷Then Saul said to David, (In verse 17) "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight Yehovah's battles." For Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

0:30:34

Already misrepresenting his thoughts. Notice verse 21.

²¹So Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him,

Notice ill will, instead of good will.

and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore, Saul said to David a second time, "You shall be my son-in-law today."

His plotting and scheming was obvious, this is not of the spirit of God, this is the spirit of Satan.

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You notice here the parallels, when David was under the influence of the wrong spirit, that he did exactly the same kinds of things to Uriah, and actually had Uriah killed. If we go down to verse 25; I Samuel 18:25.

²⁵Then Saul said, "Thus you shall say to David: 'The king does not desire any dowry but one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

0:31:55

And we see exactly the same spirit of Satan working in Saul, as later happened to king David. I think it's obvious. If we go down to verse 29.

²⁹and Saul was still more afraid of David. So, Saul became David's enemy continually.

0:32:21

Satan would have known that David had been anointed to replace him as king, so Saul, working for the other side, stands in opposition to him. He's his enemy, and he wants to kill him. And he's awfully persistent as we'll see. (Verse 30)

³⁰Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed.

0:32:55

It just kept getting worse. Let's go on to chapter 19.

¹ Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David;

So, now he's enlisting his own son, who loved David, to kill David.

but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David. ²So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore, please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide.

0:33:33

Can we see the spirit of envy driving and motivating Saul? The more he goes to the dark side the more control there is, and the more egregious his behavior becomes. Envy can lead to murder. There's a passage in the New Testament that basically shows us that. Many of you will know it, but let's just look at it in passing. If you go to Matthew 27 verse 17 and 18, it says:

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¹⁷Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸For he (Pilate) knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

0:34:29

It is a huge motivator of nastiness, and when we are driven by envy, we cannot show love. It is the very antithesis; we saw very similar things throughout the Bible. If you go to I John; I John 3, and verse 12.

¹²not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother.

0:35:12

So, we can see Saul wanting to do that even if David was a fellow Israelite.

And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.

That spirit of envy is an incredibly powerful thing, and it is the basis for Satan’s spirit towards Yehovah and His Son.

0:35:37

Going back into I Samuel, let’s take a look at I Samuel 19, verses 9 – 11. Once we read this passage, remembering, we see this continual debasing and continual becoming more and more evil in Saul. I Samuel 19, verses 9 – 11.

⁹Now the distressing spirit

Something we’ve looked at.

from Yehovah came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand.

0:36:25

So, all of a sudden we see David playing his harp and the spirit is allowed at him, there is no longer any relief.

¹⁰Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul’s presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So, David fled and escaped that night. ¹¹Saul also sent messengers to David’s house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David’s wife, told him, saying, “If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed.”

0:36:57

It was so obvious what was going on. I Samuel 20, verses 27 – 33.

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²⁷And it happened the next day, the second day of the month, that David's place was empty.

This was right around the time of the new moon.

And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?" ²⁸So Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem. ²⁹And he said, 'Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore, he has not come to the king's table." ³⁰Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan,

0:37:48

Against his own son. Anger is also a very powerful motivator.

and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? ³¹For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." ³²And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?" ³³Then Saul cast a spear at him (his own son) to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.

0:38:35

If we read this account as it goes along, closely, we can see Satan's mind more and more well developed in Saul. It was God's will to have David be anointed king, and through the instrumentality of Saul, Satan sought to destroy David. It's an old story.

0:39:11

Christ was a prophet, and His message to the ekklesia was the same as Samuel's was to Saul. My thanks to Mark Sappington for pointing out that Christ, as well as being the Son of God and a prophet, He was also an apostle, it tells us that in Hebrews 3:1. I'm just going to read that. You know, we get a little more of the fullness of the understanding of what roles and capacities God gave His Son.

0:39:48

So, in Hebrews 3:1, it says:

¹ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, (that would be the ekklesia) consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ²who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.

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There it was, large as life, I've read it many times; just the light never came on, thoughts just didn't join, and I can't explain that, that's just how it works.

0:40:14

Hopefully everybody else will be in a much greater capacity and better place; I hadn't thought about it as I should have. So, the similarities between Saul and us, the ekklesia, are very similar. He has God's spirit, the spirit of rebellion comes upon him, he's leading the nation, and he's against God all the time. There is a continual degradation, and I hadn't really thought of it in those terms.

0:41:00

But again, if you look at the buildout of Satan's mind into Saul, when he turns away from God, the story becomes quite compelling. If we go to I Samuel 22, let's look at verses 11 – 19.

11So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob. And they all came to the king. 12And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!" He answered, "Here I am, my lord." 13Then Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?" 14So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house?"

0:42:00

Like, what's your point?

15Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much." 16 And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!" 17Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of Yehovah,

0:42:39

You can see Saul being hostile to the actual priests of Yehovah for simply doing their job.

because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of Yehovah. 18And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So, Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod. 19Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep—with the edge of the sword.

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You can see the depravity in him, and at the same time, did God allow His priests to be killed at that hand of this man? Yes, He did. Could He have stopped it? Without question. Did He? He did not. Would that be something that your God would do, or not?

0:44:04

Let's go on, looking at Saul's descent into depravity as Satan's mind is developed in him. I Samuel 24; I Samuel 24, verses 1 and 2.

¹ Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi." ² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

0:44:36

Still wants to kill him, wants to take him out. I Samuel 26, let's pick it up in verse 17. I Samuel 26, and verse 17.

¹⁷ Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?" David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." ¹⁸ And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand? ¹⁹ Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If Yehovah has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before Yehovah, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of Yehovah, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' ²⁰ So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of Yehovah. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains." ²¹ Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day.

0:46:00

David had spared him when he had a chance to kill him.

Indeed, I have played the fool and erred exceedingly." ²² And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it. ²³ May Yehovah repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for Yehovah delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against Yehovah's anointed. ²⁴ And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of Yehovah, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation." ²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail." So, David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

0:46:55

Let's go to chapter 28, and we'll read verses 3 – 20.

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³Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.

Something he was supposed to do.

⁴Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa. ⁵When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. ⁶And when Saul inquired of Yehovah, Yehovah did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.

0:47:44

So, as a result of his own decision not wanting to keep God in his memory, when he got himself in deep, then he was certainly distressed, then what did he do?

⁷Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium,

He knew that was wrong.

that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "In fact, there is a woman who is a medium (or a witch) at En Dor." ⁸So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes,

0:48:11

So, he's adding deceit to another one of his character attributes.

and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Please conduct a séance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you." ⁹Then the woman said to him, "Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?" ¹⁰And Saul swore to her by Yehovah,

0:48:38

Complete rebellion here.

saying, "As Yehovah lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."

Completely ignoring God's warning.

¹¹Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me." ¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!" ¹³And the king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What did you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit (demon spirit) ascending out of the earth."

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¹⁴So he said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.

0:49:28

Before a deceiving spirit. What a change from bowing before Yehovah.

¹⁵Now Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and Yehovah has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore, I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do."

0:49:55

Ruling is a big responsibility.

¹⁶Then Samuel said: "So why do you ask me, seeing Yehovah has departed from you and has become your enemy? ¹⁷And Yehovah has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For Yehovah has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. ¹⁸Because you did not obey the voice of Yehovah nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore Yehovah has done this thing to you this day. ¹⁹Moreover Yehovah will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me.

0:50:27

As in dead.

*Yehovah will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."
²⁰Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel.*

The being that he thought it was.

And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night.

0:50:46

So, Saul's rebellion just continued to deepen, and ultimately we see his demise in I Samuel 31, verses 1 – 6.

¹ Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. ²Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. ³The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers. ⁴Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and

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thrust me through and abuse me.” But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore, Saul took a sword and fell on it. ⁵And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword, and died with him. ⁶So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that same day.

0:51:54

I went through that and I'm afraid there is going to have to be a part 10 because the message is so profound when God reveals something by a prophet, as He did with Christ to us. To walk away from that can bring very bad consequences. So, we'll continue on with this in part 10 here shortly.