

1 Chronicles 10 – The Rise, Fall, and Tragedy of Wasted Potential

Chapter 10 recounts the tragic ending of King Saul’s life—a sobering reminder that starting well doesn’t guarantee finishing well, and that drifting from God can have devastating consequences.

The scene takes place on Mount Gilboa, where Saul and his sons, including Jonathan, were fighting the Philistines. Saul was wounded by an archer, and realizing his fate was sealed, he asked his armor bearer to finish him off. When the man refused out of fear, Saul took his own life by falling on his sword. His armor bearer followed suit.

“So Saul died, and his three sons died, and all his house died together.” — 1 Chronicles 10:6 (NKJV)

Personal Application #1: Don't Let Pride Take You Where Humility Once Brought You

Saul’s life started with promise—he was humble, capable, and chosen by God. But slowly, pride replaced humility. The praise of people began to matter more than the approval of God. Saul became insecure, jealous, and obsessed with protecting his position, even to the point of trying to kill David.

We must be careful not to let success, attention, or people’s approval harden our hearts. Stay humble. Stay teachable. Stay small in your own eyes—even when God raises you up.

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” — James 4:6 (NKJV)

Personal Application #2: Ignoring God’s Voice Always Comes at a Cost

“So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not keep the word of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.” — 1 Chronicles 10:13

God had given Saul clear instructions, but he chose to disobey. And when Saul could no longer hear from God, he turned to a medium for answers—a direct violation of God’s law.

When we stop listening to God’s Word and start looking for answers elsewhere—whether in culture, popularity, or shortcuts—we risk wandering down dangerous paths. Don’t look for spiritual direction in ungodly places. When God seems silent, stay in His Word, and stay faithful.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” — Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

Personal Application #3: Even the Most Promising Lives Can Drift Without Surrender

Saul had everything going for him—natural leadership, strength, family background, and even God’s anointing. But potential is never a substitute for obedience. Saul failed not because he lacked talent, but because he stopped trusting and obeying God.

It’s easy to rely on past success or natural gifts. But in God’s eyes, lasting impact comes from a heart that’s surrendered daily. Ask yourself: Am I still depending on God—or am I coasting on what used to be?

“He who endures to the end shall be saved.” — Matthew 24:13 (NKJV)

Personal Application #4: Your Legacy Is Shaped by the Choices You Make Today

Saul's life ended in tragedy—his body desecrated, his kingdom taken, and his family line shattered. And verse 14 ends with this powerful transition:

“Therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.” — 1 Chronicles 10:14 (NKJV)

God's plan continued—but Saul missed his part in it. The kingdom was handed to David, a man after God's heart.

You may not be a king, but you have influence. What kind of legacy are you leaving? Are you clinging to control or living surrendered to God's plan?

Final Thought: Learn from Saul—Finish Well

Saul's story is not just history—it's a warning and a mirror. Talent and opportunity mean little without a heart that stays close to God. Pride, disobedience, and compromise always lead us away from His best.

Today, ask the Lord to keep your heart soft, your obedience strong, and your dependence on Him firm. Starting well is a gift—but finishing well is a choice.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” — Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)