

8/10/2025

A “Christian, (faith) Hall of Fame:”

- Who ends up going into a Hall of Fame?
- Would you consider yourself going into the “Christian Hall of Fame”?
- Would you be a candidate for the “Christian Hall of Fame”?
- Faithful, true, still serving through thick and thin. Never giving up, never quitting.
- Working hard, enduring suffering, a soldier! How scripture describes it...

So, what we can say is...

- Christians will serve, endure, as long as they will, can or want to...
- God helps, encourages, gives His Word to all of us!
- BUT, if we choose to turn away, stop, or disobey God...
- We have the potential of *leaving* God’s place of blessing.

DON’T QUIT ON GOD; HE WON’T QUIT ON YOU!

Here in 1 Samuel 11:

- In this text we see Saul taking his 1st actions as King.
- What a great opportunity,
- What a great victory!
- And people look at it and say... Wow!
- BUT is all this a sure sign of God’s long-term blessing?
- Does it mean Israel’s problems are over?

Is this not God’s way of reaching out to Saul and Israel?? In grace and mercy!!

Do you see a comparison here to God and salvation?

And see the importance of our continual walk with God.

Romans 3:24

Ephesians 1:7-8

Romans 11:6

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Let’s look at this very dramatic narrative and see what we can learn about God’s mercy and blessings on Saul:



I. The setting

A. The Ammonites

[the Dead Sea Scrolls]

In the Dead Sea Scroll at beginning of chapter 11:

[Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had been grievously oppressing the people of Gad and Reuben who lived east of the Jordan River. He gouged out the right eye of each of the Israelites living there, and he didn't allow anyone to come and rescue them. In fact, of all the Israelites east of the Jordan, there wasn't a single one whose right eye Nahash had not gouged out. But there were 7,000 men who had escaped from the Ammonites, and they had settled in Jabesh-gilead.]

B. Jabesh-Gilead (v.1b)

Nahash, Ammonite:

- Seeks a stronghold city of Israel to threaten on east.
- It would solidify his stranglehold on Gad/Reuben and thereby threaten all Israel.
- His exception to the treaty.
- To severely handicap them, but still pay tribute.
- Agrees to a delay!! **Why?**
- He assumes they won't get the help. A deadly miscalculation!

Jabesh-Gilead:

- Tries to handle it on their own
- Seeks for a treaty (v.1)
- Troubled by the terms.
- Wonders if their brothers will support them. ?
- Need 7 days and to send messengers.
- They get the help!
- So they mislead the Ammonites: peace and celebrate

II. The preparation and attack

A. Saul was notified (v.5)

B. Saul is outraged (v.6)! Note: “Spirit of God,” not “Spirit of Yahweh/Lord”

C. Saul’s object lesson (v.7)

D. Saul’s plan (v.11)

III. The victory for Saul and Israel

A. Israelites are impressed (vs.14-15)

B. Their desire to destroy the opposition (v.12)

CONCLUSION:

- They’re excited, things are great, the Lord blessed as the Holy Spirit empowered them.
- God was certainly working...
- But are they doing anything in their own strength? Later on?
- How do we know?
- Well God is blessing... Really?
- Principle: Just because things are good does not mean God is blessing.