



The First King Versus the Second King

Acts 13:14-23

There were three kings who reigned during Israel's united monarchy: Saul, David and Solomon. Let us consider the first two of these. The first king was the people's choice because they rejected God as their King and wanted a king like all the other nations (*1 Sam. 8:4-7*). The **second** king was God's choice. The first king was of the tribe of Benjamin; the **second** king was from the tribe of Judah. The first king was an amazing specimen of a man who stood higher than any of his peers (*1 Sam. 9:2*) and whose father was "a mighty man of power" (*1 Sam. 9:1*). The first king excelled in outward appearance; the **second** king had a quiet and inner devotion to the Lord (*1 Sam. 16:7*).

God's choice for the **second** king was a young shepherd, the youngest of eight boys, an unlikely candidate that not even his father Jesse would have chosen (*1 Sam. 16:6-13*). The first king lacked courage against Goliath; the **second** king faced him bravely (*1 Sam. 17*). The first king pleased the people; the **second** king pleased the Lord. The first king had a wicked heart of disobedience and a rebellious spirit (*1 Sam. 15:19,22-23*); the **second** king was a man after God's own heart (*1 Sam. 13:14*).

God was looking for a man whose heart would beat with His own heart, a man who would be in tune and in harmony with Himself. The identical expression is used in 1 Samuel 14:7 where the armor bearer was a man after Jonathan's heart, that is, he was willing to do whatever Jonathan wanted: "Jonathan, I'm with you all the way. You speak the word and I'll do it!" The first king had his kingdom ripped from him (*1 Sam. 15:28*); the **second** king had his kingdom established forever (*2 Sam. 7:12-13*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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