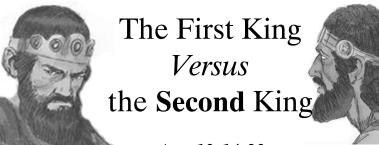


There were three kings who reigned during Israel's united monarchy: Saul, David and Solomon. Let us consider the first two of these. The first king was the people's choice because they rejected God as their King and wanted a king like all the other nations (1 Sam. 8:4-7). The **second** king was God's 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.middletownbiblechurch.org



Acts 13:14-23

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