

King Saul: Standing Tall, Falling Hard

And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."
(1 Sam 1:11; see p.105-6 in The Story)

And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.
(1 Sam 2:21; see p. 107 in The Story)

Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.
(1 Sam 2:12; see p. 25 in The Story)

The First Distortion is

Phoniness.

And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."
(1 Sam 8:7-9; see p. 110 in The Story)

But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."
(1 Sam 8:19-20; pp. 110-111 in The Story)

The Second Distortion is

Conformity.

Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys."
(1 Sam 15:1-3; see p. 116 in The Story)

Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal."
(1 Sam 15:12)

The Third Distortion is

Misrepresentation.

Resolving the Distortion Box Dilemma

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
(Psalm 51:5)

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.
(Romans 5:19)

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
(Romans 3:22-24)

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