“These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”
I Corinthians 10:11-13

There are three dangers we see in I Samuel.

I. The Danger of Phoniness.
I Samuel 1-4

Religious hypocrisy;
- Eli, the priest at Shiloh, had two sons, Hophni and Phineas, who were wicked men. I Samuel 2:12
- The people were guilty of treating God like a good luck charm rather than as their Lord and King. I Samuel 4
God is not impressed by outward appearances of religion.
God’s answer was to raise up a man who would be his spokesman in that generation.
Samuel’s response to God is a reflection of his heart. “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10

Samuel was humble, teachable and willing to obey.
“The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground.” 1 Samuel 3:19
We can’t fake our faith. It must be genuine or it means nothing.

II. The Danger of Conformity.
I SAMUEL 8

The people came to Samuel and asked for a king. They wanted to be like all the other nations around them. 1 Samuel 8:5
Samuel warns them what having a king will mean. Verses 11-18

“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 Samuel 8:19-20
The Lord said to Samuel, “It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.” Verse 7

Can you imagine how God felt?
The people of Israel forgot their purpose.
We are not called to be like the world. We are called to declare God’s glory to the world.
“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9
III. The Danger of Disobedience.
I Samuel 13, 15

God allowed the people to have a king even though it was not his perfect will for Israel. Sometimes God gives us what we ask for.

They wanted a king, so God gives them a man who looks like the kind of king they wanted.
I Samuel 10:23-24
Samuel anoints Saul as king and Saul leads Israel to victory over the Ammonites. I Samuel 11
Samuel gives his farewell speech and warns Israel what will happen if they turn away from God. I Samuel 12

Saul would not obey God.
• He offered the sacrifice to God that only the priests were to offer. I Samuel 13
• He disobeyed God’s command to destroy the Amalekites completely. I Samuel 15
• Saul’s life was a pattern of partial obedience. Partial obedience is disobedience.

“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.” I Samuel 15:22-23

Conclusion
If we see ourselves giving in to any of these dangers, now is the time to deal with it before it is too late.
• The Danger of Phoniness
• The Danger of Conformity
• The Danger of Disobedience
What do we learn from this chapter of the story?

• God is seeking people willing to trust and obey him whatever the circumstances.

• Although parents may be faithful, it does not guarantee their children will be. Each person must make their own decision to follow Christ.

• God's people are called to be like Christ, not to conform to the culture around them.