

1 Samuel 15

King James Version (KJV)

15 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. (God made you king, so now, obey Him. Samuel is trying to remind Saul where he came from and who made him king)

²Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. (Amalek was the grandson of Esau. The Amalekites were the first to attack Israel, while they were leaving Egypt) Exodus-17

³Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. (Judgment on the Amalekites for what they tried to do to Israel)

⁴And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. (Telaim is in the southern part of Judah)

⁵And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. (laid wait = fought skirmishes – better translation)

⁶And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

(The Kenites had already wormed their way into Israel through deceit. Over the years, they became the scribes or record keepers. They had pretty much infiltrated all the tribes and nations of that area. Kenites get along with anyone, as long as they are able to make a living off of them – like parasites. They are still at it today, in banking, politics, developing properties and building cities) 1Chronicles-2:50-55

⁷And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

⁸And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

⁹But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. (God didn't tell Saul to take Agag, nor the livestock. They decided to take the spoil for themselves. This is rebellion against God's command. It is God who gave them the victory) (Making Agag a vassal king in Saul's court would feed his ego)

¹⁰Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,

¹¹It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. (God is disappointed at having chosen Saul. Saul is failing in every test that God has asked of him)

(We have free will in this life – to follow God or to follow the ways of the world. Saul is failing miserably – probably because of his ego)

¹²And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal. (Saul is setting up a palace for himself in Carmel; with the spoils that he took from the Amalekites, against God's commandment)

¹³And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. (Not only didn't he do what God commanded, now he's lying about it)

¹⁴And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? (Samuel hears the sound of the livestock from Amalek that Saul was told to destroy. Saul kept the livestock as spoils of the battle, against God's command)

¹⁵And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. (He's blaming the people, and yet, he's the king. Also: the Lord THY God, not the Lord MY God. Saul has become a typical bad leader, not taking any responsibility for his actions)

(The sacrifice or offering that Saul is talking about is a peace or a thank offering. After the fat is offered, the people ate the meat of that offering. Saul is planning many banquets with these "offerings")

¹⁶ Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. (Samuel is telling him, stop; think; cut the BS. You're not fooling anyone; especially God)

¹⁷ And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? (Little in they own sight – he was a humble man) (Saul couldn't even find his own donkeys without help)

¹⁸ And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. (Destroy everything)

¹⁹ Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? (Saul failed to obey God on his first mission; he did it to profit himself)

²⁰ And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. (He's still trying to squirm out of his offence. He thinks that he can con God)

²¹ But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. (Blaming the people again; he says they just wanted to make a sacrifice – just trying to fool Samuel with fake "good intentions")

(Saul is corrupt and greedy because of his power as the king. He thinks he can rationalize whatever he does and that Samuel and God will just accept it)

Leviticus-27:28-29 (The devoted things. Something that God has placed a ban on is one of the most holy things. They already belong to God. Saul was trying to sacrifice to God what already belongs to Him. So even in his lie, he is guilty of sin against god)

²² And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. Hosea-6:6 (God wants out love, not our sacrifices. To obey God is to love Him. Love God and He will love you) Also see Isaiah-1:11, Jeremiah-6:20

²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. (Satan started a rebellion against God in the First Age, and was damned for it. Here, God rejects Saul from being king because Saul rejected God's Word)

²⁴ And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. (It's too late. Saul has been judged by God. Excuses won't cut it. Besides, no king should fear the people. His job was to lead them, not fear them)

²⁵ Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. (His repentance is superficial. Saul thinks he can wheel and deal with God. He'll say whatever it takes to be king)

²⁶ And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. (This was not the first time Saul disobeyed God. When Saul had made a sacrifice to God, instead of waiting for Samuel to arrive; Saul's progeny lost the kingship. Now on this second offence, Saul himself has lost the kingship. If he had any strength of character, he would have stepped down at this time. He didn't)

²⁷ And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. (Saul was still refusing to accept God's judgment. Now he laid hands on Samuel to try to force things to go his way)

²⁸ And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. (Now the kingdom will work against Saul until he is done; and the people will learn of it) (better than thou – God may have already chosen David to succeed Saul. God's not naming David yet because Saul would probably kill him while he had the chance)

²⁹ And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. (Strength of Israel is God)

³⁰ Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God. (my people, thy God – this says it all about Saul) (Saul wants to keep the rejection quiet so he can remain king over Israel)

³¹ So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

³² Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past. (delicately= contently, happily – better translation) (Surely the bitterness of death is past - Agag figures he put one over on Saul)

³³ And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal. (God's judgment on Agag for his many murders of Israelites; Samuel had to do it because Saul would not)

³⁴ Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

³⁵ And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel. (Saul turned out to be a big disappointment as king because of his lack of character)