



I Samuel

Part #13 –
King Saul

Witchcraft, Iniquity, idolatry!

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Introduction

Key Scriptures

- 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. – 1 Samuel 15:1
- Thus 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. – 1 Samuel 15:2
- Now 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. – 1 Samuel 15:3



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- And 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. – 1 Samuel 15:6
- And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. – 1 Samuel 15:8
- But 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. – 1 Samuel 15:9



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, **It 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. – 1 Samuel 15:10,11
- And 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.– 1 Samuel 15:12
- And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. – 1 Samuel 15:13



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- 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. 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? – 1 Samuel 15:1,17
- **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. – 1 Samuel 15:18
- 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? – 1 Samuel 15:19



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- 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. – 1 Samuel 15:22
- 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. – 1 Samuel 15:23
- 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. – 1 Samuel 15:26



Keys

King Saul rashness

- Saul was anointed king over Israel
- Voice of the LORD
- Sinners and the time of reckoning and judgment
- The fear of the Lord vs the fear of man
- Remember your humble beginnings
- The work of the LORD synonymous with the work on a journey
- Obedience versus sacrifices and burnt offerings, Disobedience
- Saul's plea to save face – “turn again with me”



In this lesson

- Appointments
- Appraisals
- Appeasements
- Abandonment



Appointments

*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. 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? – 1 Samuel 15:1,17*

Humble Beginnings

- Remember who appointed you
- Anointed to be king over his people
- When you did not even a standing before others – when you saw yourself as a nobody
- Taken from the least of the tribes and least of the peoples



Appraisals

Thus 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. – 1 Samuel 15:2

Now 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. – 1 Samuel 15:3

Appraisal by Obedience

- Now Go and smite Amalek – 1 Samuel 15:3; Deuteronomy 25:17-19
- Kenites- A people in confederacy with the enemy – 1 Samuel 15:6
- Partial obedience is not obedience – Was there any reward for partial obedience?
- Missing the mark altogether – 1 Samuel 15:7-9



Appeasements

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.. – 1 Samuel 13:8

Signs of weakness

- Then came the word of the LORD
- Samuel hastened to deliver message
- Saul's words in response to his actions – 1 Samuel 15:13,20
- Swift evaluation of his conduct and actions – 1 Samuel 15:15, 21
- He feared the people – 1 Samuel 15:24
- Saul shifts the blame – 1 Samuel 15:15,21



Abandonment

*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.** – 1 Samuel 15:22*

Rejection for abdication of duty or for disobedience?

- What was the LORD looking for?
- Obedience is better than sacrifice – We place too much emphasis on our actions than on our obedience



Abandonment – Cont'd

*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. – 1 Samuel 15:23*

Rejection for abdication of duty or for disobedience?

- God calls rebellion as the sin of witchcraft
- Rebellion – Obstinacy, wrongheadedness,
- Witchcraft – Sorcery, magic, divination, false prophets, necromancy, conjuring
- In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence - Proverbs 14:26



Abandonment – Cont'd

Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. – 1 Samuel 15:25

..and turn again with me (Help me save face before all of Israel)

- King Saul rejected the word of the LORD – 1 Samuel 15:26
- King Saul's searching for honor – 1 Samuel 15:30
- King Saul's assumptions – Was he above the law? – 1 Samuel 15:25;30
- Swift judgment: on King Saul – 1 Samuel 15:26, 28, 29
- Swift judgment: on Agag the King of the Amalekites - 1 Samuel 15:32, 33
- That was the last time Samuel saw King Saul – A show of his disapproval



Summary

The Lord rejects Saul as King over His people and speaks of another neighbor



Next Week

We will continue next week – Still in the book of 1 Samuel – King Saul