### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 15

1[Then later], SamuEl said to Saul:  
  
 ‘It was Jehovah who sent me to anoint you as king over His people IsraEl; so, listen to what He has to say!  
  
 2‘For Jehovah of Armies told me to say this:  
  
 ‘Because I’m going to punish the AmaLechites for what they did to IsraEl when [IsraEl] was coming from Egypt; 3I want you to go and cut them down… Destroy them and burn everything that belongs to them!  
  
 ‘Destroy their men, their women, their children, their babies, their cows, their sheep, their camels, and their burros!’  
  
4As a result, Saul told his people that they had to do this. So he counted his troops at GilGal (there were 200,000, plus 10,000 from Judah), 5and then they marched towards the cities of the AmaLechites and set up camp next to a creek.  
  
6He also sent a warning to the Kainites (because they’d shown mercy to the sons of IsraEl when they were coming from Egypt), telling them to get away from the AmaLechites or he might have to destroy them too.  
  
So the Kainites separated themselves from the AmaLechites, 7and then Saul attacked all the AmaLechites from HaviLah to Shur (which is just across from Egypt), 8and he captured the AmaLechite king AgAg, then he had all the people cut down with swords.  
  
9However, Saul and his men [didn’t destroy] their flocks, their herds, their food, their vineyards, or any of their valuable things… They only destroyed the things that had no value.  
  
10So thereafter, Jehovah said to SamuEl:  
  
 ‘I have changed My mind about having Saul rule as king, because he’s turned away from Me and he doesn’t listen to what I say!’  
  
11Well, this saddened SamuEl, and he kept calling to Jehovah throughout the rest of that night.  
  
  
12Then, he got up the next morning and went to meet with [the king of] IsraEl, but SamuEl was told:  
  
 ‘Saul went to CarMel and look, he erected a pillar to himself! Then he turned his chariot around and headed down to GilGal.’  
  
13And when SamuEl caught up with Saul [on his journey to GilGal], he said to him:  
  
 ‘Saul, you were blest by Jehovah and I’ve told you everything that He told me. 14So, why is it that I can hear the sounds of herds of sheep and cattle?’  
  
15And Saul replied:  
  
 ‘My men took them from the AmaLechites... We only took the best of the herds, and we’re going to use them as sacrifices to your God Jehovah!  
  
 ‘We destroyed everything else.’  
  
16Then SamuEl said to Saul:  
  
 ‘Listen and I’ll tell you what Jehovah told me last night!’  
  
And [Saul] said,  
  
 ‘So, speak!’  
  
17Then SamuEl said:  
  
 ‘Weren’t you just a nobody before you became the chief of IsraEl? And wasn’t it Jehovah who anointed you to be the king of IsraEl?  
  
 18‘Well, when Jehovah sent you here, He told you to destroy the AmaLechites for sinning against Him… He told you to fight with them until you’ve destroyed them all.  
  
 19‘However, you paid no attention to what He said, for you took a lot of loot and you’ve acted wickedly before Jehovah.’  
  
20Then Saul replied:  
  
 ‘I just did this because I was listening to what my people were saying. I [personally] followed all of Jehovah’s instructions… And although I took the AmaLechite king captive, I did kill all of his people!  
  
 21‘It was my men who took their flocks, herds, good things, and food… But they took it all so that they could sacrifice it before Jehovah our God at GilGal.’  
  
22So SamuEl asked him:  
  
 ‘Does Jehovah prefer whole burnt offerings and sacrifices, or does He want you to listen to what He says?  
  
 ‘Look! Obeying is better than sacrificing! And paying attention is better than the fat of rams!  
  
 23‘Now, this sin is an omen of the grief and misery that’s going to come upon you!  
  
 ‘Because of the contempt that you’ve shown for the words of Jehovah, He’s going to treat you with contempt, and you’ll no longer be the king of IsraEl.’  
  
24Well at that, Saul said to SamuEl:  
  
 ‘I have sinned by violating the instructions that you gave me from Jehovah.  
  
 ‘But I did it because I was afraid of the people… I was just doing what they asked!  
  
 25‘Now, if you’ll take away my sin and com back with me [to GilGal], I’ll bow [with my face] to the ground before your God Jehovah!’  
  
26But SamuEl replied:  
  
 ‘No, I won’t return with you, because you’ve treated the words of Jehovah with contempt.  
  
 ‘And now, Jehovah is going to treat you with contempt by removing you as king over IsraEl.’  
  
27Then SamuEl turned to leave, but Saul grabbed [the fringe] on [the bottom of] his robe and ripped it off.  
  
28And SamuEl said to him:  
  
 ‘That’s how Jehovah has ripped your kingship over IsraEl from your hands today. For now He’s going to give it to your neighbor, someone who’s better than you… 29And IsraEl is also going to be ripped into two parts!  
  
 The Holy One of IsraEl isn’t going to change His mind about this or be dissuaded about doing this, because, He isn’t like a man who changes his mind.’  
  
30And once again Saul said:  
  
 ‘I have sinned!  
  
 ‘Please glorify me before the elders of my people and before IsraEl! Come back with me and I’ll bow with my face to the ground before your God Jehovah!’  
  
31So SamuEl returned [to GilGal] following Saul and he bowed low before Jehovah.  
  
Then Samuel said:  
  
 32‘Now, bring the king of AmaLech to me.’  
  
Well, when they brought him in, he was trembling.  
  
Then AgAg asked,  
  
 ‘Is this how I’m going to meet my bitter end?’  
  
33And SamuEl replied:  
  
 ‘As you have used your sword to make orphans and widows, your mother is going to be childless.’  
  
Then SamuEl killed AgAg there in the presence of Jehovah in GilGal.  
  
34After that, SamuEl went back to RamAh, and Saul returned home to his house in GibeAh.  
  
35And until the day he died, SamuEl never again went to see Saul. Yet, [SamuEl] continued to mourn over Saul and over the fact that Jehovah became unhappy that He’d appointed Saul to be the king over IsraEl.