

7 – SAUL AS KING – PART 2 (1 SAMUEL 14:1-15:35)

I. Saul's Foolish Vow (1 Samuel 14:1-52)

A. Jonathan's Victory (14:1-14)

- Jonathan took his armorbearer to the Philistine garrison and did not tell his father.
- Saul was located at Gibeah in Benjamin with 600 men and the priest Ahijah, son of Ahitub.
- Jonathan's faith in the Lord guided him as he led his armorbearer to the Philistines.
- Jonathan proposed a test saying that if the Philistines call them to come up, the victory is theirs.
- The Philistines call to them to come up and Jonathan said that the Lord had given them victory.
- Jonathan and his armorbearer killed 20 Philistine men in a small field.

B. The Will of God (14:15-23)

- Because of Jonathan's attack, panic struck the Philistines and an earthquake happened.
- Saul's watchmen saw the panic and he called a rollcall that revealed Jonathan was missing.
- Saul then told Ahijah to bring the Ark, but stopped him when the panic grew among the enemy.
- Then Saul and Israelites went to battle with the Philistines who were in total confusion.
- The writer tells the reader that the Lord saved Israel that day.

C. Saul's Vow (14:24-30)

- The men of Israel were physically distressed as they battle because of a vow placed on them.
- Saul made them vow not to eat until he had taken vengeance on his enemies.
- When the army reached a forest, no one would eat the honey because they feared the vow.
- Jonathan, not knowing of the vow, ate some honey and he regained his strength.
- When told about his father's vow, he stated the victory would be greater if the people ate.

D. The People's Sin (14:31-36)

- After the driving the Philistines from Michmash, the people were physically faint.
- The people rushed to take the spoil, slaughtered the animals and ate the meat with blood.

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- Saul was told the people were sinning against God by eating meat with blood.
- Saul called for a stone to be brought to slaughter the animals in one place.
- He also called the people not to sin against the Lord by eating meat with blood.
- He then built an altar to the Lord which was his first.

E. Jonathan's Peril (14:37-46)

- Saul sought guidance from the Lord concerning whether to press the attack against the enemy.
- The Lord did not answer and it was surmised that someone had broken the vow.
- Saul proclaimed that the one who broke the vow would be killed and the lots were cast.
- In the first lot, the people were vindicated and Saul and Jonathan were selected.
- Saul confronted Jonathan when he was selected by lot and he confessed to eating honey.
- Saul proclaimed Jonathan's death sentence and people intervened to rescue him.
- Saul then halted his assault on the Philistines and they returned to their own territory.

F. Saul's Rule (14:47-52)

- The writer states that Saul established his kingdom and fought against his enemies.
- The writer lists the three sons and two daughters of Saul.
- Saul's wife is identified as well as the commander of the army, his uncle Abner.
- There was a continual war against the Philistines and Saul took every male into the army.

II. Saul's Disobedience (1 Samuel 15:1-35)

A. Samuel's Instructions (15:1-3)

- Samuel told Saul to utterly destroy Amalek for their attack on Israel in the Wilderness.
- Saul was to destroy everything that Amalek had.

B. The Destruction of Amalek (15:4-9)

- Saul defeated Amalek, but he took Agag, their king, and the best of their spoil.
- The people were put to the sword and everything that was worthless was destroyed.

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C. The Lord's Regret (15:10-11)

- The Lord came to Samuel and expressed his regret in setting up Saul as king.
- The Lord stated that Saul had turned from following him and was disobedient.
- This grieved Samuel and he cried out to the Lord all evening.

D. Samuel Confronts (15:12-23)

- Samuel rose early the next day to meet Saul and was told where to find Saul.
- Saul went to Carmel to set up a monument to himself and then to Gilgal.
- When Saul greeted Samuel, he stated that he had performed the commandment of the Lord.
- Samuel questioned the sound of animals that he was hearing.
- Saul offered the excuse that they were for sacrifice for the Lord.
- Samuel then questioned why Saul did not obey the Lord and take the spoils.
- Saul again stated that he was obedient and that he had taken Agag captive.
- He stated that the people took the spoils to sacrifice to the Lord.
- Samuel proclaimed that obedience is better than sacrifice to Lord.
- He also stated that because he rejected the word of the Lord, he was rejected as king.

E. Saul's Remorse (15:24-31)

- Saul confessed that he had sinned because of fearing the people.
- He asks Samuel to pardon him and return with him to worship the Lord.
- Samuel refused and as he turned away, Saul tore Samuel's garment.
- Samuel then stated that just as he tore the garment, Israel will torn from him.
- The Kingdom will now be given to another, who is better than Saul.
- Saul confessed his sin again and pleaded that Samuel return with him.

F. The Execution of Agag (15:32-33)

- Samuel then called for Agag to be brought and he executed the King of Amalek.

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G. Samuel Mourns (15:34-35)

- Samuel returned to Ramah and he did not go to see Saul again until his death.
- Samuel mourned for Saul and the Lord regretted that he had made Saul King.