

# 1 Samuel 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

## Analysis

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**And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.**

The chapter concludes with national celebration: sacrifices 'before the LORD,' the formal establishment of Saul as king, and rejoicing that unites the entire assembly. The peace offerings (shelamim) emphasized fellowship and celebration, with portions shared among worshippers. That 'all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly' marks the high point of Saul's reign - a united people, a proven king, enemies defeated, and God glorified. This moment of joy makes Saul's subsequent decline all the more tragic.

## Historical Context

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Peace offerings involved communal meals where the fat was burned to God, the breast and thigh given to priests, and the rest eaten by worshippers. These sacrifices celebrated covenant relationship and divine blessing. The public ceremony at Gilgal formally inaugurated Saul's reign with religious sanction.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How should believers celebrate when God grants victory and answers prayer?
2. What does corporate worship and rejoicing contribute to spiritual unity?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶת שָׁם תְּמִלְכֵי  
H1980 H3605 And all the people in Gilgal king  
H5971 H1537 H4427 H8033 H853

שָׁא וָלְפָנֵי יְהָנָה בְּגִלְגָּל תִּזְבְּחוּ  
and there Saul before the LORD in Gilgal and there they sacrificed  
H7586 H6440 H3068 H1537 H2076 H8033

שָׁא וָלְפָנֵי יְהָנָה וְשִׁמְמָחָה  
sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD rejoiced  
H2077 H8002 H6440 H3068 H8055 H8033 and there Saul  
H3605 H376 H3478 H5704 H3966

מְאֹד: עַד יִשְׁבָּא לְאַנְשֵׁי יִכְלָה  
of Israel greatly

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 10:8** (Sacrifice): And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

**1 Samuel 10:17** (References Lord): And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh;

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