

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

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

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.

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

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