

# 1 Samuel 14:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.

## Analysis

**So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.**

The summary of Saul's military campaigns - against Moab, Ammon, Edom, Zobah, the Philistines, and Amalek - demonstrates his general effectiveness as a warrior king. The phrase 'took the kingdom over Israel' suggests his reign brought order after the judges' chaos. His ability to 'vex' (yarsha, 'condemn' or 'treat as guilty') his enemies indicates military success. Yet this summary follows immediately after failure, creating tension between public achievement and private dysfunction.

## Historical Context

The list of enemies represents threats from every direction: Moab and Ammon to the east, Edom to the south, Zobah (Aramean kingdom) to the north, Philistines to the west, and Amalek to the south. Saul's military successes secured Israel's borders during his reign.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Can outward success coexist with inward failure?
2. How should we evaluate leaders who achieve results while demonstrating character flaws?

## Interlinear Text

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סַבְּ יָבֵן	וְلֹא	קָם	וְשָׁאָל	לְכָדֵן	עַל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	הַ	לְכָדֵן	וְשָׁאָל
<b>So Saul</b>	<b>took</b>	<b>the kingdom</b>	H5921	<b>over Israel</b>	<b>and fought</b>	<b>on every side</b>			
H7586	H3920	H4410		H3478	H3898	H5439			
בְּכָל	עַמְּ וּ	וּבְבָנִי	בְּמֹאָה בָּנִי	אִיבָּרִי	בְּמֹאָה בָּנִי	אִיבָּרִי	עַמְּ וּ	וּבְבָנִי	בְּכָל
H3605	against all his enemies		against Moab	and against the children	of Ammon	H1121	H5983		
	H341		H4124						
וּבְאָדָם	וּבְמֶלֶךְ	צָוֹבָה	וּבְפַלְשָׁת יִם						
and against Edom	and against the kings	of Zobah	and against the Philistines						
H123	H4428	H6678	H6430						
אַשְׁר וּבְכָל	וּפְנֵי הָ	וּרְשִׁיעָן							
H3605	H834	H6437	and whithersoever he turned	himself he vexed	H7561				

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 10:6** (Kingdom): And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ish-tob twelve thousand men.

**1 Samuel 14:52** (Parallel theme): And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

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