

1 Samuel 15

Chapter 15 of 31 · 35 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Saul's Incomplete Obedience

¹ Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

² Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

³ Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

⁴ And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

⁵ And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

⁶ And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

⁷ And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

⁸ And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

⁹ But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

Samuel Rebukes Saul

10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17 And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

Samuel Kills Agag

32 Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Repent — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

Sin — חַטָּאת (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חַטָּאת) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 15:1 **References Israel:** 1 Samuel 9:16. **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 12:14; 13:13.

References Lord: 1 Samuel 10:1

1 Samuel 15:2 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 24:20; Hosea 7:2. **References Lord:** Amos 8:7

1 Samuel 15:3 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 22:19; Numbers 24:20; 31:17

1 Samuel 15:4 **Parallel theme:** Joshua 15:24

1 Samuel 15:6 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 27:10; Exodus 18:19; Judges 1:16; 4:11; 5:24

1 Samuel 15:7

References Egypt: 1 Samuel 27:8; Genesis 25:18. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 14:48; Genesis 2:11; 16:7; Exodus 15:22

1 Samuel 15:8 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 30:1. **Kingdom:** Numbers 24:7; Esther 3:1

1 Samuel 15:9 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 15:3; 15:15; 15:19

1 Samuel 15:11 **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 13:13. **Repentance:** Genesis 6:6; 2 Samuel 24:16.

Word: Psalms 36:3; 119:136. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 15:3; 15:9; Jeremiah 9:18; Hebrews 10:38. **References Lord:** Psalms 125:5

1 Samuel 15:12 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 25:2; Joshua 15:55; 2 Samuel 18:18

1 Samuel 15:13

Blessing: Genesis 14:19; Judges 17:2; Ruth 3:10. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 15:9; Genesis 3:12; Proverbs 28:13; 30:13; 31:31; Luke 17:10; 18:11

1 Samuel 15:15 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 15:9. **Sacrifice:** 1 Samuel 15:21

1 Samuel 15:17

References Israel: 1 Samuel 9:21; Hosea 13:1. **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 10:1; 10:22; Judges 6:15. **Kingdom:** Matthew 18:4

1 Samuel 15:19 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 14:32

1 Samuel 15:20 **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 15:13. **Parallel theme:** Romans 10:3

1 Samuel 15:21 **Sacrifice:** 1 Samuel 15:15

1 Samuel 15:22 **Sacrifice:** Proverbs 21:3; Ecclesiastes 5:1; Hosea 6:6; Matthew 5:24; 9:13; 12:7; Mark 12:33. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 19:5; Matthew 23:23. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 26:13

1 Samuel 15:23 **References Lord:** 1 Chronicles 28:9; Jeremiah 28:16; 29:32. **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 13:14. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 31:19; Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:6; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 5:20. **Word:** Psalms 107:11

1 Samuel 15:24 **Sin:** Numbers 22:34; 2 Samuel 12:13. **References Lord:** Proverbs 29:25. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 23:2; Galatians 1:10; Revelation 21:8

1 Samuel 15:25 **Prayer:** Exodus 10:17

1 Samuel 15:26 **Word:** Jeremiah 6:19; Hosea 4:6. **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 13:14; 15:23; 16:1. **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 2:30; 15:31. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 42:38; 2 John 1:11

1 Samuel 15:28 **Kingdom:** Acts 13:22

1 Samuel 15:29

Repentance: Numbers 23:19; Ezekiel 24:14. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 95:11; Isaiah 45:24; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Timothy 2:13; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18. **References Israel:** Psalms 68:35; Joel 3:16

1 Samuel 15:30

Worship: John 12:43. **References God:** John 5:44. **References Lord:** Isaiah 29:13

1 Samuel 15:33

Parallel theme: Judges 1:7; Matthew 7:2; James 2:13; Revelation 16:6; 18:6. **Creation:** Genesis 9:6

1 Samuel 15:34 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 11:4

1 Samuel 15:35 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 19:24; Philippians 3:18. **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 15:11; 16:1. **Creation:** Genesis 6:6

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