

03 The Lord Rejects Saul as King

Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them.'"

Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt. But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions."

When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions."

But Samuel replied:

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings
and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the voice of the
Lord?

To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of
rams.

For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of
the Lord,
he has rejected you as king."

1 Samuel 15:1-3a, 7, 9-11a, 13, 22-23