

1 SAMUEL 15 – THE LORD REJECTS SAUL AS KING! - TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE! – PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS DISOBEDIENCE!

6/16/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

THERE IS POWER IN BLOOD – Lewis Jones CCCM #201

*1 Would you be free from the burden of sin? There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win? There's wonderful power in the blood.*

Chorus: There is power, power, wonder working power In the blood of the Lamb.

There is power, power, wonder working power In the precious blood of the Lamb.

2 Would you be free from your passion and pride? There's power in the blood, power in the blood;

Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide; There's wonderful power in the blood. [Chorus]

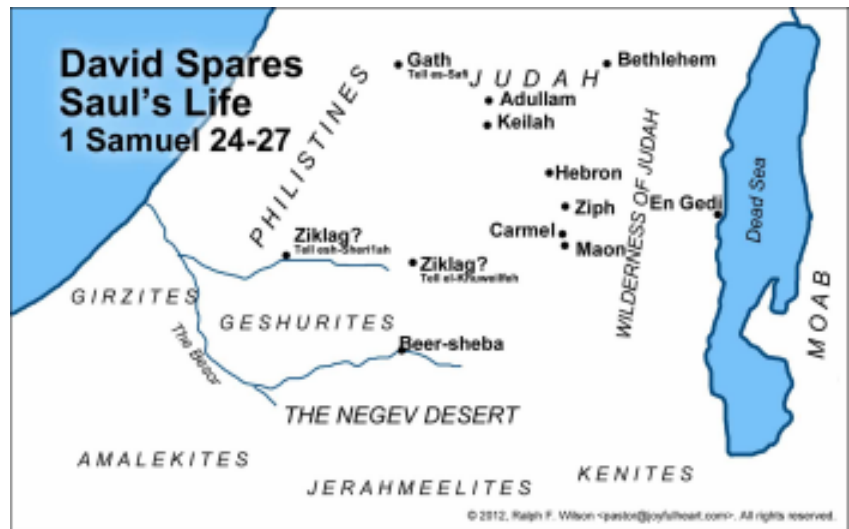
*3 Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow? There's power in the blood, power in the blood' Sin stains are lost in it
life giving flow, There's wonderful power in the blood. [Chorus]*

4 Would you do service for Jesus your King? There's power in the blood, power in the blood;

Would you live daily His praises to sing? There's wonderful power in the blood. [Chorus]

Chapter 15– Saul Spares King Agag

In the first portion of chapter 15, Samuel tells Saul
1Sa 15:3 Now go and attack Amalek, and destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "***1Sa 15:7-9 And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. [8] He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. [9] But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.***



SAUL REJECTED AS KING!

1Sa 15:10-35 - *Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, [11] "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments."*

- God's heart was broken over Saul's disobedience. The man who started out humble and submissive to God was now boldly going his own way in disobedience to God.

And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

- Samuel has God's heart. It hurt God to reject Saul, and it hurt Samuel to see him rejected. When the things that grieve God, grieve us, and the things that please God please us, it demonstrates having a heart for God. Samuel had a heart for God. He cried out to the LORD all night! The rejection of sinners is the grief of good people; God delights not in their death, nor should we.

[12] So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." [13] Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD." [14] But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my 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 the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." [16] Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on." [17] So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"

- Because of this and other actions previously, it could no longer be said of Saul, you are little in your own eyes. He was now big in his own eyes, and now small in the LORD's eyes!

[18] Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' [19] Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"

- This was the most apparent of Saul's sins. God had given him a specific command, and he had disobeyed it. Though the disobedience was the most apparent sin,

[20] And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. [21] But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." [22] So Samuel said: "Has 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 heed than the fat of rams.

- Any religious ritual without obedience is empty before God. The best sacrificial offering we could bring to God is a repentant heart (*Psa 51:16 -17 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. [17] The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.*) and our bodies surrendered to His service for obedience (*Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*) To obey is better than sacrifice!

[23] For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king. –

- A rebellious, stubborn heart rejects God just as certainly as someone rejects God by idolatry. Because of his empty religious practice, rebellion, and stubbornness against God, Saul was rejecting God's word. So, God rightly rejected him as king over Israel.

[24] Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. [25] Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD." [26] But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." [27] And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.

- Saul's action provides a vivid lesson on how the kingdom was torn away from him.

[28] So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. [29] And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent." [30] Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God." [31] So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD. [32] Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me."

- The issue is not yet resolved for Samuel. There is still the matter of Saul's incomplete obedience. God's command to utterly destroy all of Amalek still stood, even if Saul had not obeyed it.

So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." [33] But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

- Now, without hesitation, the old prophet raises a sword and before the LORD, brings it down upon this proud, violent king. Samuel hacked Agag in pieces.

[34] Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. [35] And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

- Saul never came to see Samuel. Ramah and Gibeah were less than ten miles apart, but they never saw each other again. Samuel was not a cold, dispassionate messenger of God's word. He hurt for Saul.

SUMMARY:

- In *Dt. 17:19*, God had instructed Moses when the Israelites came into the land, had established themselves and had rest from their enemies, they were to wipe out the Amalekites, who had attacked Israel in the wilderness. (*Ex. 17*)
- God now instructs Samuel to command King Saul to attack the Amalekites and wipe them all out.
- Saul went and fought the Amalekites, but disobediently did not wipe them all out.
- The word of the LORD came to Samuel saying because of Saul's disobedience, he was rejected as king.
- Upon hearing this from the LORD, Samuel grieved to the point where he cried out all night to the LORD.
- The clear point emerged that "*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams...For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry!*

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct.

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