

10/8/15

**1Sam. 14-15**

The prophet Samuel has proclaimed the actions of Saul, as foolish, in offering sacrifice to God, instead of waiting on Samuel, in view of war against the Philistines.

The self-willed heart of Saul is being manifest, even as God had warned the people about him.

His justifications and excuses were to blame Samuel and the urgency of the moment but God did not but it, so Saul was rejected from continuing to be king and God would replace him with David. 1Sam. 13:11-14

The war against the Philistines continues, chapter 14-15 should be read and studied together, in order that they make sense.

**14:1-15 The bold confidence of Jonathan in God to give the victory.**

**14:1-5** The worrier spirit of Jonathan.

- 1) One day Jonathan the son of Saul told his young armor bearer, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side. But he did not tell his father. vs. 1

- a) Jonathan was introduced in the previous chapter.
- b) Jonathan had attacked the garrison in Geba with 1,000 men but Saul blew the trumpet and took credit for it. 1Sam. 13:2c-3
- 2) The camp of Saul were regrouping. vs. 2
  - a) Saul was resting, sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron. vs. 2a
  - b) The men of war with Saul were about six hundred men. vs. 2b
- 3) The priest was with Saul. vs. 3
  - a) He was the grandson of Eli, "Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh. vs. 3a-e  
\* Later killed by Saul, at Nob. 1Sam. 22:9
  - b) He was wearing an ephod, with the Urim and Thummin, to enquire the mind of God. vs. 3f  
\* High Priest. Ex. 28:30
  - c) But the people did not know that Jonathan had gone. vs. 3g
- 4) The pass guarded to get to the garrison of the Philistines. vs. 4
  - a) Jonathan attempted to go between the passes to go over to the Philistines' garrison. vs. 4a-b

- b) The location had a sharp rock on one side and a sharp rock on the other side, rugged terrain. vs. 4c
  - c) They had names, one was Bozez, meaning “surprising white, glistening” and the name of the other Seneh meaning thorny. vs. 4d
- 5) Their geological formation are described. vs. 5
- a) The front of one faced northward opposite Michmash. vs 5a
  - b) The other southward opposite Gibeah. vs. 5b

**14:6-15** The stepping out in faith by Jonathan.

- 1) The communicating of Jonathan’s faith. vs. 6
  - a) Jonathan venturous faith, Jonathan told the young man who bore his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us.” vs. 6a-b
  - b) Jonathan’s reasoning,” For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few.” vs. 6c  
\* Gideon’s 300. Judges 7
- 2) The partner in faith. vs. 7
  - a) He affirmed the request, “So his armor bearer said to him, “Do all that is in your heart.” vs. 7a-b

- b) He confirmed his help, “Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart.” vs. 7c-d
- 3) The plan of Jonathan. vs. 8-10
- a) They would first cross over and reveal themselves to the sentinels. vs. 8
  - b) The condition to know God would give them victory was stated, vs. 9-10
    - 1)) The sign not to go up, “If they say thus to us, ‘Wait until we come to you,’ then we will stand still in our place and not go up to them.” vs. 9
    - 2)) The sign to go up, “But if they say thus, ‘Come up to us,’ then we will go up. For the LORD has delivered them into our hand, and this will be a sign to us.” vs. 10  
\* This was a fleece, like Gideon. Judges 6:36-40
- 4) The execution of the plan. vs. 11-12
- a) Both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, “Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden.” vs. 11
  - b) The men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armor bearer, and said, “Come up to us, and we will show you something.” vs. 12a-c
  - c) Jonathan told his armor bearer, “Come up after me, for the LORD has

delivered them into the hand of Israel.” vs. 12d-f

- 5) The step of faith resulted in victory. vs. 13-15
  - a) Both Jonathan and his armor bearer charged towards the enemy. vs. 13
    - 1)) Both climbed up on their hands and knees with his armor bearer after him; vs. 13a
    - 2)) The Philistines fell before Jonathan, then his armor bearer killed them. vs. 13b-c
  - b) The number of slain was about twenty men within about half an acre of land. vs. 14
  - c) The hand of God was manifested. vs. 15
    - 1)) There was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. vs. 15a-b
    - 2)) The garrison and the raiders also trembled. vs. 15c
    - 3) The identity of the trembling, “and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling”” vs. 15d-e

**14:16-23 The clear declaration that God gave the victory.**

**14:16-19** The reaction in the camp of Saul.

- 1) The watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and saw a multitude being fearful and dispersing. vs. 16
- 2) Saul called for roll-call, to his surprise Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there. vs. 17
- 3) Saul told Ahijah to bring the ark of God, for at that time the ark of God was with the children of Israel. vs. 18
  - a) This reminds us of the sons of Eli, who took the ark into battle thinking it would guarantee victory.
  - b) Saul is trusting things of God, instead of God, like the sons of Eli. 1Sam. 4
- 4) As Saul talked to the priest, that the noise in the camp of the Philistines continued to increase; so Saul said to the priest, “Withdraw your hand.” vs. 19
  - a) Saul is presumptuous.
  - b) Saul is proud.
  - c) Saul is impatient.

**14:20-23** The camp advanced into battle.

- 1) The army of Israel witness the Philistines fighting each other in great confusion. vs. 20

\* This is a common manifestation, as God would have the enemy turn on themselves, as in the days of Gideon. Judges 7:22
- 2) The Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, were

emboldened and went up into the camp from the surrounding country and joined the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. vs. 21

- 3) The Israelites that had deserted and hiding in the mountains of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, they also followed hard after them in the battle. vs. 22
- 4) The victory was given by Yahweh, as He saved Israel that day, and the battle shifted to Beth Aven “Beyth ‘Aven”, house of vanity. vs. 23

#### **14:24-46    The foolish oath of Saul.**

**14:24-30** The unwise command of Saul.

- 1) Saul distressed the people by prohibiting them to eat before they defeated the enemy. vs. 24
  - a) The prohibition was by way of an oath, resulting in a curse.
  - b) No one tasted food, they must have been exhausted by the 18 mile pursuit.
- 2) The people continued in the battle. vs. 25-27
  - a) All the people came to a forest and partook no honey, being in fear of he oath. vs. 25-26
  - b) Jonathan not having heard his father charge ate some honey and his countenance brightened. vs. 27

- 3) The people communicated to Jonathan the oath of Saul. vs. 28-30
  - a) Jonathan was told of the charge his father had declared and the people were faint. vs. 28
  - b) Jonathan exposed the foolishness of his father’s curse, in view of his refreshment after eating the honey. vs. 29
  - c) Jonathan declared the clear evidence of eating would of resulted in victory. vs. 30

**14:31-25** The unwise command provoked the people to sin.

- 1) The people became faint, as they drove the Philistines to Aijalon. vs. 31
- 2) The people coming on the spoil, due to their hunger, defiled themselves as they ate blood. vs. 32
- 3) Saul was informed of the people’s sin against the Lord and he rebuked them and asked for a large stone to slaughter the animals. vs. 33
- 4) Saul commanded the people to be instructed. vs. 34
  - a) Saul told them to tell the people to bring their animals to be slaughtered that they might eat and not sin against the LORD. vs. 43a-g
  - b) So the people complied. vs. 43h-i

- 5) Saul built his first altar to the LORD. vs. 44

**14:36-46** The unwise conduct of Saul resulted in God being silent.

- 1) The zeal of Saul to pursue the Philistines. vs. 36
  - a) Saul commanded to go after the Philistines by night to completely defeat them., which was very dangerous and not done. vs. 36a-d
  - b) The people affirmed the command . vs. 36e
  - c) The counseled to seek God’s counsel. vs. 36f-g
- 2) The petition of Saul to God. vs. 37
  - a) So Saul asked counsel of God, “Shall I go down after the Philistines? vs. 37a-b
  - b) Will You deliver them into the hand of Israel?” vs. 37c
  - c) But The Lord did not answer Saul. vs. 37d
- 3) The king seeks to find the culprit for God’s silence. vs. 38 43
  - a) Saul calls the heads of the people determine the guilty person. vs. 38
  - b) Saul swore, even if it was his son, he would die and all remained silent. vs. 39

- c) Saul called for a lot between the elders and he and his son, Jonathan and they agreed. vs. 40
- d) Saul asked the LORD God of Israel, “Give a perfect lot.” And Saul and Jonathan were chosen. vs. 41
- e) Saul asked God for a second lot and Jonathan was taken. vs. 42
- f) Saul asked Jonathan to tell him what happened, he did so and agreed to die. vs. 43
- g) The judgment of Saul regarding his son was that he would die. vs. 44
- 4) The people rescue Jonathan from the judgment of Saul. vs. 45-46
  - a) The people rejected Saul execution of Jonathan, based that he delivered Israel. vs. 45a-d
  - b) The people were ad emit, swearing by Yahweh that Jonathan had and they rescued them. vs. 45e-i  
\* The word rescued “padah”, means to ransom or redeem.
  - c) Saul did not pursue the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place. vs. 46

**14:47-52    The summary of the wars of Saul and family.**

**14:47-48** The military achievements of Saul.

- 1) Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, he had authority over the people, as their leader. vs. 47a
- 2) Saul and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he harassed them. vs. 47b-h
- 3) Saul with his army attacked the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them. vs. 48

**14:49-52** The family of Saul.

- 1) Saul had three sons, Jonathan, Jishui and Malchishua. vs. 49a-b  
\* Additional list. 1Chron. 9:39
- 2) Saul had two daughters, the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal. vs. 49c-e
- 3) Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. vs. 50a
- 4) Saul's commander of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. vs. 50b
- 5) The two family lines, Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel. vs. 51
- 6) The summary statement of the war with the Philistines. vs. 52
  - a) There was fierce war with the Philistines all the days of Saul. vs. 52a

- b) When Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself. vs. 52b-c

**15:1 9** **The divine mission Saul is sent on is disobeyed.**

**15:1-3** The prophet Samuel communicates the divine mission.

- 1) The mission is based on the principle of submission to God. vs. 15:1
  - a) Samuel had been sent by the LORD to anoint Saul king over God's people, Israel. vs. 1a-b
  - b) Samuel told Saul, therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD. vs. 1c
- 2) The mission was based on a historical presidents. vs. 2
  - a) The retribution is from God, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel,'" vs. 2a-b
  - b) The explanation is treachery, "how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt." vs. 2c
- 3\* "Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly 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."'''

- 15:4-9** The carrying out of the mission by Saul.
- 1) The expedient preparation of Saul. vs. 4
    - a) The place, “So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim.” vs. 4a
    - b) The powerful army, “Two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah.” vs. 4b
  - 2) The arrival of Saul and his army. vs. 5
    - a) Saul came to a city of Amalek. vs. 5a
    - b) Saul lay in wait in the valley. vs. 5b
  - 3) The mercy of Saul over the Kenites. vs. 6
    - a) Saul commanded the Kenites to depart from the Amalekites, lest he destroy them also. vs. 6a-d
    - b) Saul gave the historical reason for his mercy, “For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.” vs. 6c
    - c) The Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. vs. 6d
  - 4) The execution of the mission by Saul. vs. 7
    - a) The geographical terrain, “Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.” vs. 7
    - b) The compromise of the mission, “He also took Agag king of the

- Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.” vs. 8
- c) The evil deed in the mission. vs. 9
    - 1) The rebellious spirit, “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 utterly destroy them” vs. 9a-g
    - 2) The partial obedience, “But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.” vs. 9h

**15:10-35** **The consequences of the disobedience of Saul.**

**15:10-12** The grievous journey of Samuel to Gilgal.

- 1) God gave Samuel a word of knowledge about Saul’s disobedience. vs. 10-11
  - a) The Divine authority, “Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying.” vs. 10
  - b) The divine revelation, “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.” vs. 11a-b
  - c) The human affirmation, “And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.” vs. 11c-d

- 2) Samuel went to Saul. vs. 12
  - a) Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul and he was told, Saul had gone to Carmel. vs. 12a-d
  - b) Saul went there to set up a monument for himself and had gone on around, passed to Gilgal. vs. 12e-h

**15:13-23** The rejection of Saul by Samuel at Gilgal.

- 1) The words of Saul revealed no conviction over his disobedience. vs. 13-15
  - a) The words were a lie, “Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD.” vs. 13
  - b) The evidence Samuel pointed to revealed his guilt, “But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” vs. 14
- 2) The words of Saul added to his incrimination. vs. 15
  - a) Saul blamed the people, “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.” vs. 15a-d

- b) Saul complemented himself, “and the rest we have utterly destroyed.” vs. 15e
- 3) The words of Samuel rebuked Saul. vs. 16
  - a) The command, ‘Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! vs. 16a-b
  - b) The comment, “And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” vs. 16c-d
- 4) The review of Saul’s history. vs. 17-19
  - a) The insignificance of Saul. “So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel?” vs. 17a-b
  - b) The greatness of God, “And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?” vs. 17c
  - c) The recent mission of Saul, “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.’” vs. 18
  - d) The rebellion of Saul. vs. 19
    - 1) “Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD?” vs. 19a
    - 2) “Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?” vs. 19b-c



- 5) The response of Saul to Samuel. vs. 20-23
- a) The blindness of Saul to his sin by his continuous sin of self-will, “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.” vs. 20
  - b) The inability to tell truth from a lie, is the end result of Saul’s life. vs. 21
    - 1) The people are blamed, “But the people took of the plunder.” vs. 21a
    - 2) The offering is presented as honorable, “sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.” vs. 21b-d
  - c) The exposing of Saul’s deception by Samuel. vs. 22-23
    - 1) The standard of God is obedience to His word, “Then 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.” vs. 22

- 2) The result of disobedience to His word is treasonous, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” vs. 23a-b
- 3) The verdict of God, “Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.” vs. 23c-d

**15:24-31** The remorse of Saul before Samuel at Gilgal.

- 1) Remorse is not to be confused with repentance. vs. 24-25
  - a) Remorse has a right confession but it is not repentance, “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.” vs. 24
  - b) Remorse has self in mind, “Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.” vs. 25
- 2) Remorse leads to judgment. vs. 26-29
  - a) Samuel was true to God, not man, “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.” vs. 26
- b)** Saul attempted to stop Samuel, “And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.” vs. 27
- c)** Samuel affirmed the rejection of Saul by God. vs. 29
- 1))** He used the torn robe as an illustration, “So Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today.” vs. 29a-b
- 2))** He uttered his replacement, “and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.” vs. 29c-d
- d)** Samuel confirmed Saul’s replacement by the nature of God, “And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.” vs. 29
- 3)** Remorse is interested in reputation not character. vs. 30-31
- a)** Saul was interested in appearance, “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.” vs. 30

- b)** Saul was only deceiving himself, “So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.” vs. 31

**15:32-35** The righteous judgment by Samuel at Gilgal.

- 1)** The king of Amalek was brought before Samuel. vs. 32
- a)** Samuel gave the order. vs. 32a-b
- b)** Samuel was entreated for mercy, implied by the words of Agag. vs. 31c-e
- 2)** The king of Amalek was executed by Samuel. vs. 33
- a)** Samuel declared justice would be served, for his many murders. vs. 33a-c
- b)** Samuel administered the justice of God himself, cutting Agag in pieces for Yahweh. vs. 33b
- 3)** The king of Israel. Saul, had also been cut off by G, on the same day, the only difference, Saul was still alive. vs. 34-35
- a)** Samuel departed from Saul. vs. 34-35a
- 1))** They each went to their home. vs. 34
- 2))** They never saw each other again. vs. 35a
- a))** Samuel never initiated any encounter, though Saul did go to Ramah once, the last occasion was

when Saul sought the witch of Endor and Samuel prophesied from Sheol, about the death of his sons and himself. 1Sam. 28:15-19, 18:24

**b))** “So **Saul** died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.”  
1Chron. 10:13

**b) Samuel loved Saul. vs. 35**

- 1)) The emotional agony of Samuel, caused him to lament. vs. 35a
- 2)) The emotional grief of Yahweh is stated again. vs. 35b