

ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS

Samuel (Rise of the King) - Lesson 22

To Obey Is Better (1 Samuel 15:16-35)

I. SAUL DEFENDS HIS DISOBEDIENCE (1 Samuel 15:16-21)

Samuel Stops Excuses

- Samuel interrupts **SAUL'S** (1) defense
- God has already spoken to Samuel
- Saul must listen to God's message
- Correction calls for a response

King Still Answers to God

- Saul once considered himself **UNIMPORTANT** (2)
- The Lord made him king
- His position carried great responsibility
- He remained under God's authority

"He was big in his own eyes and that made God small in his eyes." — David Guzik

The Mission God Gave

- God sent Saul on a specific mission
- Amalek faced divine judgment dating back to the Exodus
- The **COMMAND** (3) clearly defined the task
- Saul was not allowed to revise the mission

"The right way for a Christian to walk in is to do what his Master bids him, leaving all consequences to the Almighty." — Charles Spurgeon

Samuel Names the Sin

- Saul **FAILED** (4) to obey the Lord
- He rushed toward the plunder
- God called his actions evil
- Saul must answer for his choices

Saul Insists He Obeyed

- Saul insists he obeyed
- He lists his accomplishments
- King Agag remains **ALIVE** (5)
- His defense exposes the problem

Supporting Scripture: James 1:22-25.

The Troops & Sacrifice

- Saul places blame on the **TROOPS** (6)
- They kept the animals marked for destruction
- Sacrifice becomes their stated reason
- Saul still avoids responsibility

II. GOD DESIRES OBEDIENCE (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

What Pleases God

- Saul appeals to sacrifice
- Samuel asks what pleases God
- God had commanded both worship and obedience
- An offering cannot excuse **REBELLION** (7)

To Obey is Better

- Obedience is **BETTER** (8) than sacrifice
- Listening calls for a response
- Costly gifts cannot replace surrender
- Worship involves our whole life

Supporting Scripture: Romans 12:1.

"Worship is about giving ourselves to God." — John MacArthur

Rebellion Rejects God

- Samuel calls Saul's conduct rebellion
- Rebellion is compared to divination
- Both reject God's rightful **AUTHORITY** (9)
- Religious language cannot lessen the offense

Defiance & Idolatry

- Defiance insists on its own way
- Samuel connects it with **IDOLATRY** (10)
- Our desires can govern our choices
- Submission gives God the final word

Rejection Brings Rejection

- Saul rejected the Lord's word
- The Lord rejected Saul as **KING** (11)
- Royal position could not protect him
- His disobedience carried lasting consequences

III. SAUL FACES THE CONSEQUENCES (1 Samuel 15:24-29)

Saul Admits His Sin

- Saul acknowledges his disobedience
- He violated the Lord's command
- He feared the **PEOPLE** (12)
- Their wishes governed his choices

Supporting Scripture: Proverbs 29:25.

Forgiveness & Consequences

- Saul asked for forgiveness
- He wants Samuel to **RETURN** (13) with him to worship
- Samuel repeats God's judgment
- Confession does not restore the throne

Supporting Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:13-14.

The Torn Robe

- Samuel turns to leave
- Saul grabs the corner of his **ROBE** (14)
- The robe tears away in Saul's grasp
- Samuel explains the sign given in the torn robe.

A Better Neighbor

- God will give the kingdom to someone else
- Saul's replacement is not yet named
- The coming king will be **BETTER** (15) than Saul
- God's purpose for Israel continues

Judgment Stands

- God speaks truthfully
- His character remains constant and unchanging
- Saul cannot bargain away this **JUDGMENT** (16) from God
- The announced transfer will stand

"God's repentance happens in spite of perfect foreknowledge, while most human repentance happens because we lack foreknowledge." — John Piper

IV. SAUL SEEKS PUBLIC HONOR (1 Samuel 15:30-31)

Please Honor Me

- Saul again acknowledges his sin
- He asks for **PUBLIC** (17) honor
- The elders and people remain his concern/fear
- His request raises questions about his priorities

Samuel's Presence Matters

- Saul asks Samuel to return with him
- Samuel had publicly established his kingship
- His **PRESENCE** (18) would carry weight
- Saul wants him there for worship

Supporting Scripture: John 12:42-43.

Samuel Returns - Worship

- Samuel returns with Saul
- Saul bows down in worship
- God's judgment remains in place, despite Saul's worship
- King Agag's fate remains **UNRESOLVED** (19)

V. SAMUEL CARRIES OUT JUDGMENT (1 Samuel 15:32-35)

Agag before Samuel

- Samuel calls for king Agag
- Saul had spared the Amalekite king
- Worship had **NOT** (20) resolved his fate
- Agag now faces judgment

Answer for Violence

- Agag's sword had made many women childless
- Samuel names his personal guilt
- His royal position offers **NO** (21) protection
- Samuel executes him before the Lord

"Even kings must account to the King of kings for the guiltless blood they shed or cause to be shed." — Matthew Henry

Samuel & Saul Separate

- Samuel returns to Ramah
- Saul returns to Gibeah
- Their partnership comes to an **END** (22)
- Saul continues without Samuel's former support

Ends with Grief

- Samuel **MOURNS** (23) for Saul
- Firm judgment brings genuine sorrow
- God regrets making Saul king
- Disobedience leaves a painful ending

ANSWER KEY

1. SAUL'S (Slide 15)
2. UNIMPORTANT (Slide 16)
3. COMMAND (Slide 18)
4. FAILED (Slide 20)
5. ALIVE (Slide 21)
6. TROOPS (Slide 25)
7. REBELLION (Slide 29)
8. BETTER (Slide 30)
9. AUTHORITY (Slide 33)
10. IDOLATRY (Slide 34)
11. KING (Slide 35)
12. PEOPLE (Slide 42)
13. RETURN (Slide 44)
14. ROBE (Slide 47)
15. BETTER (Slide 48)
16. JUDGMENT (Slide 49)
17. PUBLIC (Slide 54)
18. PRESENCE (Slide 55)
19. UNRESOLVED (Slide 57)
20. NOT (Slide 62)
21. NO (Slide 63)
22. END (Slide 65)
23. MOURNS (Slide 66)