

A photograph of a wooden suspension bridge spanning a river. The bridge is made of dark wood and is supported by several tall wooden posts. The water in the river is a light, milky color. On the right side, there is a steep, rocky bank. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall scene is somewhat desolate and rugged.

CHAPTER 15

1 Samuel

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v1-3) God's Mission = bring judgment & annihilate Amalek, devote ALL to destruction, don't spare a thing! (Sound familiar? Josh. 6-7)
 - We looked at Exodus 17 and the battle with the Amalekites where God pronounced judgment as well as Moses's follow up Deut 25
 - What do we know...God is Holy, righteous, perfect, loving, merciful, just and deadly serious about sin.
 - We live in grace now, but judgment is coming

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v4-6) Bright spot: Saul knows how to rally the troops and develop strategy...also he shows mercy to the Kenites
 - Kenites = descendants of Jethro Moses' father-in-law (Judges 1:16)
- ❖ (v7) Amalekites = desert nomads (In Judges we see them joined other nations against Israel)
 - Amalek = "People Who Lick Blood"
- ❖ (v9) "But Saul" - did not obey, rejecting God's Word, believing he knew what was best!

Saul didn't just let Agag live...

- ❖ 1 Samuel 27:8, 30:1
- ❖ 2 Samuel 1:8-10, 8:12
- ❖ 1 Chronicles 4:43
- ❖ Esther 3:1
- ❖ Half or selective obedience = full disobedience
- ❖ Saul obeyed as far as it suited him

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v11) God had regret...and v29 - confusing?
 - a. v29 tells us God doesn't make mistakes and then react with changes, he's sad because he desires good yet knows failure will be the end
 - b. Best description in human terms by Samuel
 - c. God is deeply sorrowful over Saul & his failure
 - d. Not the same regret as we have because things are out of our power to control or a result of our own failure
 - e. God is just grieved

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v11) Samuel had to confront Saul already once in chapter 13 so he is super heavy hearted about Saul's choices...not out of surprise, but a heart of love and hopefulness for something better!
 - His crying out to the Lord shows his love and the anger frustration!
- ❖ Question: Do you grieve over the things that God grieves?
 - Are you as deadly serious about sin as God is?
- ❖ It's all showing more of Saul's lack of relationship

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v12) Sam rises early cause the confrontation can't wait...many of us in similar circumstances drag our heels but if we really love the person we can't wait
- ❖ Like: A. Begg...this is a "Monumental Collapse"!
 - Carmel not the same as Mt. Carmel
 - Saul brings Agag back with all the spoils of war like all the other kings, setting up a monument for his own honor
 - Saul's god = Saul
- ❖ (v13) Again "Lord Bless you"(Bro)...then lie #1

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v15) Lie #2 - "the people...kept best for sacrifice..."
 - Saul being his own god has decided what is best!
 - Knowing he's been caught, blames others
- ❖ (v16-19) Samuel STOP & LISTEN!
 - **Superior Position** - you were nothing(9:21)
 - **Special Mission** = bring God's judgment
 - **Sacrificial Devotion** - simple obedience was all God is asking

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v20-21)Saul can't even be quiet and listen just keeps trying to justify! - Lies #3-6 - "I have..."
 - Blaming others again, "But the people..."
 - Note: he thinks religious sacrifices to the Lord further validates...
 - Half Truth = Whole Lie
- ❖ (v22-23)Major Biblical Truth: To Obey is better than Sacrifice!
 - God doesn't need or want our donations as much as our lives (heart, faith & obedience)

“[10] For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. [11] I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. [12] “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.”

Chapter 15 Notes:

- Remember David was no less a sinner, but see the difference of his heart & relationship with God is these Psalms - Ps. 51
- Note: Samuel equates rebellion to divination & presumption to idolatry!
 - Saul is conjuring things up, trying to charm, twisting truth, offering his own false worship...he's his own god, puts self above & what do you think the occult is all about?
- Literally, Saul is moving from seeking God to seeking the witch of En-dor(chap.28)

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v24-31) Saul is **remorseful**, but not **repentant**
 - Saul was sorry he got caught...for the consequences & exposure he was receiving and asked to get out of it or save face
 - A repentant person is sorry, but fully accepts the consequences and asks for help to take action towards a changed heart and behavior moving forward, embracing exposure
 - Remorse is about Self - Repentance is about how sin affects OTHERS

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ Lie #7 - "I Feared the people"- no you wanted to be the hero / savior
- ❖ Lie #8 - pardon my sin so I can return and worship the Lord? - never been his concern...
- ❖ Note: he's just making things worse ripping Samuel's robe...
- ❖ (v30) He's just looking to save face before the people and the Lord
 - Note: "the Lord your God"

Chapter 15 Notes:

- ❖ (v31-33) Samuel returns only to show Saul what true worship / sacrifice looks like!
- ❖ (v34-35) Samuel truly loved Saul, but sometimes there is a point because of sin and unrepentance where there can be no more relationship and a giving over of someone to the Lord
 - 1 Cor. 5 - calls for this kind of extreme choice, but for the purposes of discipline and reconciliation!
 - Alternative = unhealthy codependence

PICTURE OF CHRIST

Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 23:1-36

**Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees
were the only people Jesus
gave woe to during his
ministry.**

PICTURE OF CHRIST

He has given us Superior Position as the children of God who will be seated with Christ.

We Have a Special Mission to be lights in a dark world! To help rescue people from the coming judgment

He is asking for Sacrificial Devotion to him submitted to his will in faithful obedience.

“[32] So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, [33] but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 10:32-33 | ESV

“[23]...If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24] Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.”

John 14:23-24 | ESV