

## Lesson 18: 1 Samuel 15-16 and 25:1

### The Disobedience of Saul, The Rejection of Saul, The Anointing of David, The Death of Samuel

Samuel had judged the people with integrity but now he is old. We saw examples of Samuel as the ideal priest, prophet and judge. Asking for a king was acknowledged as a sin of the people, a lack of faith in the LORD. Then the Philistines arrived, ready to attack again. King Saul was instructed to wait 7 days for Samuel to arrive to offer a sacrifice before Israel attacked their enemy. But Saul became impatient, and some of the warriors began to leave. He thought Samuel would not show up in time. So, Saul offered the sacrifice himself, but Saul *is not* a priest. Then Samuel arrived to admonish Saul for this grave act. In this lesson *the Amalekites* are threatening Israel.

#### 1. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-9 and footnotes. Share any information that is helpful.

What did the Lord instruct Saul to do to the Amalekites?

What does verse 15:3 mean?

How many soldiers did Saul have for this battle?

What is wrong with Saul's actions in 15:8-9?

#### 2. Read 1 Samuel 15:10-23 and footnotes. Share any footnotes.

What do these verses tell us about Saul's character or wisdom?

What did Saul do at Carmel?

Reflection: Why did he do this, what does it mean?

How do Samuel and Saul disagree about the actions of the army under Saul's control?

Cite specific verses.

#### 3. Read *Hosea 6:4-6* below and compare it to *1 Samuel 15:21-23*. What do these prophecies say is more important to the LORD than sacrifice?

**Hosea 6:4-6** What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah?

Your loyalty is like morning mist, like the dew that disappears early.<sup>5</sup> For this reason I struck them down through the prophets, I killed them by the words of my mouth; my judgment shines forth like the light.

<sup>6</sup> For it is loyalty that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Read verse 23 again. Where was *Saul arrogant* in this lesson?

Extra Credit Challenge Question: In 1 Samuel 28:4-18, Saul turned to the evil type of *divination*. What did he do?

What message did he receive?

4. Read 1 Samuel 15:24-35.

How did Samuel fulfill the LORD's instructions regarding the Amalekites?

What does Samuel prophesy to Saul about his future? See verses 26, 28, and 35.

5. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-3. What mission does the LORD give Samuel? What concern does Samuel have?

6. Read 1 Samuel 16:4-13 and footnotes. What does the LORD say he *will not* use as criteria for choosing a king?

How many sons does Jesse have?

Who did Samuel anoint?

How is the anointed one described?

What was his occupation?

7. Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23. How do Saul and David meet?

What did *Saul* think of David, and how did David serve Saul?

8. Read 1 Samuel 25:1. This is our last lesson in 1 Samuel.  
Our next lesson is in the book of Judith.