

**SAUL SPARES AGAG AND LOSES THE KINGDOM (I SAMUEL 15)**

**Parts:**        **Narrator**  
                  **Yehowah**  
                  **Samuel**  
                  **Servants**  
                  **Saul**  
                  **Agag**

**Samuel:**

"Yehowah has sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of Yehowah.

"Thus says Yehowah: 'I will punish what Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him on the way when he came up from Egypt. 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.' "

**Narrator:**

So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah.

And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

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. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

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**Narrator:**

Now the word of Yehowah came to Samuel.

**Yehowah:**

"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."

**Narrator:**

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

**Narrator:**

And Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul.

**Samuel:**

"I am looking for Saul."

**Servants:**

"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."

**Narrator:**

So Samuel went to Saul.

**Saul:**

"Blessed are you of Yehowah! I have performed the commandment of Yehowah."

**Samuel:**

"What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

**Saul:**

"They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to Yehowah your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

**Samuel:**

"Be quiet! And I will tell you what Yehowah said to me last night."

**Saul:**

"Speak on."

**Samuel:**

"When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not Yehowah anoint you king over Israel? Now Yehowah sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' Why then did you not obey the voice of Yehowah? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of Yehowah?"

**Saul:**

"But I have obeyed the voice of Yehowah, and gone on the mission on which Yehowah sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to Yehowah your God in Gilgal."

**Samuel:**

"Has Yehowah as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,  
As in obeying the voice of Yehowah?  
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.  
Because you have rejected the word of Yehowah,  
He also has rejected you from being king."

**Saul:**

"I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of Yehowah and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship Yehowah."

**Samuel:**

"I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of Yehowah, and Yehowah has rejected you from being king over Israel."

**Narrator:**

And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.

**Samuel:**

"Yehowah has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."

**Saul:**

"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 Yehowah your God."

**Narrator:**

So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped Yehowah.

**Samuel:**

"Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me."

**Agag (comes to him cautiously):**

"Surely the bitterness of death is past."

**Samuel:**

"As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women."

**Narrator:**

And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before Yehowah in Gilgal.

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

(The End)