

Two encounters between Samuel and Saul compared:

RED = Samuel's command to Saul
PURPLE = Samuel's response to Saul

BLUE = What Saul does under pressure
GREEN = Saul's "defense"

1 SAMUEL 10.8

Samuel said to Saul:

"And you shall go down to Gilgal [only 11.14-15 in 1 Sam outside the passages here] ahead of me; then I will come down to you to present burnt offerings and offer sacrifices of well-being. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."

1 SAMUEL 13.7-15

Some Hebrews crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. **He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people began to slip away from Saul. So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the offerings of well-being." And he offered the burnt offering. As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, Samuel arrived; and Saul went out to meet him and bless him. Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul replied, "When I saw that the people were slipping away from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines were mustering at Michmash, I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down upon me at Gilgal, and I have not entreated the favor of YHWH'; so I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of YHWH your God, which he commanded you. YHWH would have established your kingdom over Israel forever, but now your kingdom will not continue; YHWH has sought out a man after his own heart; and YHWH has appointed him to be ruler over his people, because you have not kept what YHWH commanded you." And Samuel left and went on his way from Gilgal. The rest of the people followed Saul to join the army; they went up from Gilgal toward Gibeah of Benjamin. Saul counted the people who were present with him, about six hundred men.**

1 SAMUEL 15

Samuel said to Saul, "YHWH sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of YHWH. Thus says YHWH of hosts, 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did in opposing the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'" So Saul summoned the people, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers, and ten thousand soldiers of Judah. Saul came to the city of the Amalekites and lay in wait in the valley. Saul said to the Kenites, "Go! Leave! Withdraw from among the Amalekites, or I will destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites withdrew from the Amalekites. **Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt. **He took King Agag of the Amalekites alive, but utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep and of the cattle and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was valuable, and would not utterly destroy them; all that was despised and worthless they utterly destroyed.** The word of YHWH came to Samuel: "I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me, and has not carried out my words." Samuel was angry; and he cried out to YHWH all night. Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, and Samuel was told, "Saul went to Carmel, where he set up a monument for himself, and on returning he passed on down to Gilgal." **When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, "May you be blessed by YHWH; I have carried out the word of YHWH." But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears, and the lowing of cattle that I hear?" Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the cattle, to sacrifice to YHWH your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed." Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what YHWH said to me last night." He replied, "Speak." Samuel said,****

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

Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of YHWH, I have gone on the mission on which YHWH sent me, I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But from the spoil the people took sheep and cattle, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to YHWH your God in Gilgal." And Samuel said, "Has YHWH as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of YHWH? Surely, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is no less a sin than divination, and stubbornness is like iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of YHWH, he has also rejected you from being king."

Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of YHWH and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray, pardon my sin, and return with me, so that I may worship YHWH."

Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of YHWH, and YHWH has rejected you from being king over Israel." As Samuel turned to go away, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. **And Samuel said to him, "YHWH has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this very day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.**

Moreover the Glory of Israel will not recant or change his mind; for he is not a mortal, that he should change his mind." Then Saul said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, so that I may worship YHWH your God." So Samuel turned back after Saul; and Saul worshiped YHWH. Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." And Agag came to him haltingly. Agag said, "Surely this is the bitterness of death."

But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so your mother shall be childless among women." And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before YHWH in **Gilgal**. Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And YHWH was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.