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1 Samuel 6-7

Ark Returned to Israel

6 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. **2** The name of the firstborn was Joel, and the name of the
3 Yet they turned aside after gain and took bribes and perverted justice. **4** Then all the elders of Israel gathered and came
5 and said to him, "Behold, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like
6 all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed
7 to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all they say to you, for they have not rejected you,
8 but they have rejected me from being king over them. According to all the deeds they have done, from the day I brought them
9 up out of Egypt even to this day, with which they have forsaken me and served other gods, so they are doing also to you.
10 Now, therefore, listen to their voice; only you shall warn them solemnly and show them the ways of the king who will reign
11 over them." So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked for a king from him. He said, "This will be the
12 ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them for his chariot and to be his horsemen,
13 and some will run before his chariot. He will appoint them for himself as commanders of thousands and commanders
14 of fifties, and to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.
15 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and bakers and cooks. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give to his officers and
16 to his servants. He will take your male servants and female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And you will cry out in that day because of your king
17 you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

The Ark Returns from Philistia

19 But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, **20** that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." **21** And Samuel heard all the words of the people and he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. **22** The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice and make them a king."

Saul Chosen to Be King

9 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a
2 Benjamite, a man of wealth. He had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome young man. There was not a man among
3 the sons of Israel more handsome than he; he was head and shoulders taller than any of the people. Now the donkeys belonging to Kish
4 Saul's father had gone astray. And Kish said to his son Saul, "Take now one of the servants with you, and arise, go look for the donkeys."
5 So he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they did not find them. They
6 went on to the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. He passed on to the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them.
7 When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us return, lest my father cease
8 to care for the donkeys and be anxious for us." But he said to him, "Behold, there is in this city a man of God, and he is a
9 man held in honor. All that he says comes surely to pass. Let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us about our mission on which we
10 have gone." Then said Saul to his servant, "But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread is gone from our sacks, and there is no
11 present to bring to the man of God. What is we have?" Moreover, the servant replied to Saul, "Behold, I have with me a quarter
12 of a shekel of silver. I will give that to the man of God, that he may tell us our way." (Formerly in Israel when a man went to inquire
13 of God, he thus spoke: "Let us go to the seer," for he who is now called a prophet was formerly called a seer.) And Saul said to his
14 servant, "Your word is good. Come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was. As they went up the hill to the city,
15 they met young women going out to draw water and said to them, "Is the seer here?" They answer them and say, "He is. Behold,
16 he is before you. Make haste now; he came today to the city, for there is a sacrifice of the people today on the high place.
17 As soon as you enter the city, you will find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat
18 until he comes, for he must bless the sacrifice; afterwards the guests will eat. Now go, for at this time you will find him." Then they
19 went up to the city. As they came into the city, behold, Samuel was coming out against them to go up to the high place.
20 Now the LORD had revealed to Samuel in his ear, "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you
21 shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have
22 seen my people, because their cry has come to me." When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD gave him the word, "Behold, this is the man
23 of whom I spoke to you! This shall rule my people." Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate and said, "Tell me where the seer
24 is." Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today, and in the morning
25 I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart. As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind
26 on them, for they have been found." And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Does it not rest on you and on all your father's house?
27 Saul answered, "Am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe
10 of Benjamin? Why then do you speak thus to me?" Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it upon his head and
2 kissed him and said, "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the
3 people of the LORD and you will be their ruler. Then you will know that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his people.
4 And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his people Israel: when you depart from me
5 today, you will meet two men by the tomb of Rachel in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah. When you come there to the city, you will meet
6 a band of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. Then the
7 Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. Now when these signs
8 come to you, do what you find to be your opportunity, for God is with you. And you shall go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I
9 will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait until I come to you and
10 show you what you shall do." When he turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart; and all these signs came
11 to pass that day. When they came from there to the hill, behold, a band of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God rushed upon him,
12 and he prophesied among them. When all those who had formerly known him saw that he prophesied with the prophets, the people
13 said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" And when he had ended prophesying,
14 he came to the high place." Now a kinsman of Saul had said, "Where did you go?" He said, "To look for the donkeys. But when we saw that
15 they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." And Saul's kinsman said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." Saul said to his kinsman,
16 "He told us that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingship, of which Samuel had
17 spoken, he told him not anything.

Saul Proclaimed King

10 Then Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah. And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the LORD,
2 the God of Israel, 'I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the
3 kingdoms that were oppressing you.' But you have today rejected your God, who saved you from all your calamities and your
4 distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD, by your tribes and by
5 your clans." Then Samuel brought near all the tribes of Israel, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken.
6 Then he brought near the tribe of Benjamin, by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken. Then he brought near the clan of the
7 Matrites, man by man, and Saul the son of Kish was taken. But when they sought him, he was not found. Then they inquired of the LORD, "Is
8 there a man still to come?" And the LORD said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." Then they ran and brought him
9 from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. Then Samuel said
10 to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long
11 live the king!" Then Samuel told the people the rights of the kingdom and wrote them in a book and laid it before the LORD. Then
12 Samuel dismissed all the people, each to his home. Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and there went with him a band of men whose
13 hearts God had touched. But some sons of rascals said, "How can this man save us?" They despised him and brought him no
14 gifts. But he held his peace.

Nahash the Ammonite

11 Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a
2 covenant with us, and we will serve you." But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "On this I will make a covenant with you, that I may
3 put out all your right eyes and so put reproach on all Israel." The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days, that we may send
4 messengers throughout the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will surrender to you." When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they spoke the words in the ears of the people, and all the people lifted up their voice and wept.
5 Now Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen, and Saul said, "What is wrong with the people, that they are
6 weeping?" And they told him the words of the men of Jabesh. Then the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words,
7 and his anger was kindled greatly. He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel
8 by the hand of the messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!" Then
9 the dread of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out as one man. When he numbered them at Bezek, the
10 men of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. And they said to the messengers who had come,
11 "Thus you shall say to the men of Jabesh-gilead, 'Tomorrow, when the sun is hot, you shall have deliverance.'" When the
12 messengers came and told it to the men of Jabesh, they were glad. Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will come out
13 to you, and you may do with us all that seems good to you." But on the morrow Saul put the people in three companies, and they
14 came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day. Those who escaped were
15 scattered, so that two of them were not left together. Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there."
12 Then all the people went to Gilgal and there made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the LORD, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Samuel's Farewell Address

12 Then Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made you
2 king over us. Behold, the king walks before you; and I am old and gray, and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before
3 you from my childhood to this day. Here I am! Bear witness against me in the presence of the LORD and his anointed, whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I defrauded, whom have I oppressed, and from whose hand have I received a bribe to blind my eyes with it? I will restore it to you." They said, "You have not defrauded us nor oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand." Then he said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand."

Samuel Reviews God's Faithfulness

4 Then they said, "He is witness." Samuel said to the people, "It is the LORD who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought up your
5 fathers out of the land of Egypt." Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous deeds of the LORD, which he performed for you and your fathers. When Jacob went into Egypt, and your fathers cried to the LORD, then the LORD sent
6 Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. But they forgot the LORD their God, and he sold them into the hand of Sisera, the commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the King of Moab; they fought against them. Then they cried to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and have served the Baals and the Rabbeth-ashtoreth; but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve you.' And the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Bedan and Jephthah and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies round about, so that you dwelt in safety. But when you saw that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God was your king. Now, therefore, behold the king whom you have chosen, for which you asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you. If you fear the LORD and serve him and listen to his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God. But if you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then his hand shall be against you as it was against your fathers. Even now stand still and see this great thing the LORD will do before your eyes! Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call to the LORD, that he may send thunders and rain, that you may perceive and see that your quest for a king in the sight of the LORD is evil in the sight of God." So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunders and rain that day, and all the people feared the LORD and Samuel.
19 And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to our
20 sins this evil in the sight of the LORD, to ask for a king." And Samuel said to the people, "Fear not; you have done all this evil; yet
21 turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And turn not aside, for then you would go after
22 vain things that can neither profit nor save, for they are vain. For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it
23 has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. Moreover, as for me, God forbid that I should sin against him by ceasing to pray for you, and I will teach you the good and the right way. Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your
24 heart; for consider how great things he has done for you. But if you still do evil, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

Saul Rejects the Philistines

13 Saul was [1] years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years over Israel. **2** Now Saul chose
3 for himself three thousand men of Israel, of whom two thousand were with him in Michmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and one thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent. **4** Jonathan smitten the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear." **5** And all Israel heard the report that Saul had smitten the garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel was
6 also in bad odor with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal. **7** Now the Philistines gathered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They came up and encamped in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven. When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait (for the people were hard pressed), then the people hid themselves in caves and in thickets and among rocks and in strongholds and in pits. Some Hebrews crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.
8 He waited seven days, according to the time appointed by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people began to
9 desert him. Then said Saul, "Bring me here the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.
10 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and salute him.
11 And Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul said, "When I saw that the people began to desert me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not made entreaty before the LORD.' I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering."
12 Saul said to Samuel, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which he commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has appointed him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."
15 Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people who were with him, about six hundred men.

Israel Disarmed

16 Now Saul and his son Jonathan and the people who were with them remained in Gibeah of Benjamin, while the Philistines encamped at Michmash. **17** And raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual, **18** and another company turned toward Beth-horon, and another company turned toward the border that looks down on the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.
19 Now there was no blacksmith found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears,"
20 so all Israel used to go down to the Philistines to sharpen their plowshare, their mattock, their axe, and their sickle. The charge was
21 a pim for the plowshares and for the mattocks, and for the axes and for setting the goads. So on the day of battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan; but they were found with Saul and his son Jonathan.

Jonathan Attacks the Philistines

14 One day, Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines'
2 garrison on the other side." But he did not tell his father. Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah under the pomegranate tree
3 that is in Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men, and Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother,
4 the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the priest of the LORD in Shiloh, was wearing the ephod. And the people did not know that
5 Jonathan was gone. On one side of the pass by which Jonathan sought to go over to the garrison of the Philistines there was a sharp
6 rock, and on the other side there was a sharp rock. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other was Seneh. The
7 front of the one rises up on the north opposite Michmash, and the other on the south opposite Gibeah. And Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work
8 for us, for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few." And his armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go
9 on, and I am with you heart and soul." Then he said, "Behold, we will go over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. If they say
10 to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place and will not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hand. This shall be the sign for us." So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines, and the Philistines said, "Behold, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes in which they
11 had hid themselves." And the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor-bearer and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you a
12 thing." And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel." And Jonathan
13 climbed up on his hands and his armor-bearer behind him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer slew [2] after him.
14 And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, was about twenty men within about a half-acre of land
15 which a yoke of oxen could plow. And there was a panic in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and even the raiders trembled, and the earth quaked, so that it became a panic.
16 And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin saw that the multitude was melting away and going to and fro. Then said Saul to the people who were with him, "Muster now and see who has gone from us." And when they had mustered, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there. **18** Then Saul said to Ahiah, "Bring near the ark of God." For the ark of God was at that time with the sons of Israel.
19 While Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the camp of the Philistines went on and increased. Then Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."
20 Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and came to the battle; and behold, every man's sword was turned against his
21 fellow, and there was a very great confusion. Moreover, the Hebrews who had been with the Philistines before, and who had gone with them into the camp from the surrounding country, these also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.
22 Also all the men of Israel who had hid themselves in the hill country of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines were fleeing, even they
23 also pursued after them in the battle. So the LORD saved Israel that day, and the battle passed beyond Beth-aven.

Saul's Foolish Oath

24 Now the men of Israel were distressed that day, and Saul had bound Israel by an oath, saying, "Cursed be the man who shall eat food
25 before evening, that I may be avenged on my enemies." So none of the people tasted food. **26** Now the people came into the
27 forest, and there was honey on the ground. When the people came into the forest, behold, the honey was dripping, but no man put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath. But Jonathan had not heard when his father charged the people with the oath, and he put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it in the honeycomb and put his hand to his mouth, and his eyes were enlightened. Then said one of the people, "Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, 'Cursed be the man who shall eat food today.' And the people are faint." Then said Jonathan, "My father has troubled the land. See how my eyes have been enlightened because I tasted a little of this honey. How much more if only the people had eaten today of the spoil of their enemies they found! For now the slaughter among the Philistines has been small."
31 They struck down the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. And the people were very faint. **32** And the people
33 pounced on the spoil, and took sheep and oxen and calves and slaughtered them on the ground. And the people ate them with the blood. Then they told Saul, "Behold, the people are sinning against the LORD by eating with the blood." He said, "You have dealt faithlessly; roll a great stone to me this day." Then said Saul, "Disperse among the people and say to them, Let each bring his ox or his sheep near to me here, and eat and do not sin against the LORD by eating with the blood." So all the people brought their oxen with them that night, and slaughtered them there. **35** Then Saul built an altar to the LORD; this was the first altar he built to the LORD.
36 Then said Saul, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night and despoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man among them." They said, "Do whatever seems good to you." But the priest said, "Let us draw near to God here." **37** So Saul asked God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into the hand of Israel?" But he gave him no answer on that day. **38** Then Saul said, "Draw near, all you chiefs of the people, and know and see by what this sin has come today. **39** For as God lives, who saves Israel, even if it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But not one among all the people spoke a word to him.
40 Then said he to all Israel, "You shall be on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side." The people said to Saul, "What seems good to you, we will do." **41** Then Saul said, "O LORD God of Israel, why have you not answered your servant today? If the guilt is in me or in Jonathan my son, give a perfect lot." But if this is in your people Israel, give a perfect lot." Then Jonathan and Saul were taken, but the people escaped. **42** Then Saul said, "Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son." And Jonathan was taken.
43 Then said Saul to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." Jonathan told him, "I indeed tasted a little honey with the point of the staff that was in my hand. Behold, I must die!" **44** Saul said, "May God do so to me and more also, if you shall not surely die, Jonathan!"
45 But the people said to Saul, "Shall Jonathan die, who has wrought this great salvation in Israel? Far be it from us! As the LORD lives, not a hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." Thus the people ran to the rescue of Jonathan, so that he was not put to death. **46** Then Saul went up from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their place.

Saul Fights Israel's Enemies

47 So Saul took over the kingship over Israel. He fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the
48 Ammonites, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, against the Philistines. Wherever he turned he routed them. **49** Now
50 the sons of Saul were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchi-shua; and the name of his two daughters was this: the name of the
51 firstborn was Merab, and the name of the younger was Michal. Now the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the captain of his army was Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. **52** Now there was fierce war against the Philistines all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself.

The Lord Rejects Saul

15 And Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore hearkening to the voice of the
2 words of the LORD, thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I have considered what Amalek did to Israel, how he set himself against them on the
3 way when they came up out of Egypt. Now go, and you shall smite Amalek and shall utterly destroy all that they have, and you shall not spare them, but you shall put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"
4 So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah.
5 And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in ambush in the valley. **6** Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, go down from
7 among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from the Amalekites. **8** And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah as far as you go to Shur, which is
9 opposite Egypt. He captured Agag, the king of the Amalekites, alive, and all the people he utterly destroyed with the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and the oxen and the fatlings and the lambs and all that was good and would not utterly destroy them; but everything that was despised and weak they utterly destroyed.
10 The word of the LORD came to Samuel: "I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not
11 carried out my commandments." And Samuel was angry; and he cried to the LORD all night. **12** And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, and it was told Samuel, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he is setting up a monument for himself and has turned and passed on and gone down to Gilgal." **13** And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed be you to the LORD; I have performed the commandment of the LORD." **14** But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen I hear?" **15** Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." **16** Then said Samuel to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the LORD
17 has spoken to me this night." And he said to him, "Speak." **18** Then Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. **19** And the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the
20 sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you
21 pounce upon the booty, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and went
22 on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag, king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
23 But the people took of the booty, sheep and oxen, the best of what should be destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." **24** Then said Samuel, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, to hearkening than the fat of rams. **25** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you from being king." **26** Then said Samuel to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." **27** As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. **28** Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day, and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you. **29** And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change his mind, for he is not a man, that he should change his mind." **30** Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God." **31** So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.
32 Then said Samuel, "Bring up to me Agag, king of the Amalekites." Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." **33** But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.
34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his house at his home in Gibeah of Saul. **35** And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death, for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

David Anointed King

16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your
2 horn with oil and go, I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself among his sons a king." Samuel
3 said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take with you a heifer and say, I have come to sacrifice
4 to the LORD. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me whom I name
5 to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came out to meet him, and
6 said, "Do you come peacably?" He said, "Peacably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
7 When they came, he saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his
8 appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For God sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward
9 appearance, but God looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither
10 has God chosen this." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has God chosen this." Jesse made seven of his sons
11 pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your young men here?" Jesse said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and
12 fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes hither." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal he was
13 beautiful, and the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his
14 brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Saul Troubled by Evil Spirit

15 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD troubled him. **16** Saul's servants said to
17 him, "Behold, now a harmful spirit from God is troubling you. Let our lord now command your servants who are before you, to seek
18 out a man who is a skillful player on the harp, and when the harmful spirit from God comes upon you, he will play with his hand, and you will
19 be well." So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." One of the young men
20 said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is skillful in playing, and a man of valor and a warrior and prudent in
21 speech and a handsome person, and the LORD is with him." Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me David your
22 son who is with the sheep." And Jesse took an ass laden with bread and a skin of wine and a kid and sent them by his son David to Saul.
23 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse,
17 saying, "Let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." And when the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the harp and played it with his hand. Then Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

David and Goliath

17 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah, and
2 encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

Footnotes:
1 Samuel 6 Bibliography
1 Samuel 6 Bible Study Questions, Lesson 1, 15, 17
1 Samuel 6 Is Jesus the ultimate Ark of the Covenant? 1 Samuel 6
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