

## **The Lord Rejects Saul**

1 Samuel 15

by Don Falkos

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God told Saul, "The Amalekites hindered Israel on their journey to the Promised Land. Go now and destroy them – men, women, children, and all their animals."

Saul sent a warning to the Kenites, who had been kind to Israel, "Move away from the Amalekites, or you will die with them." The Kenites packed up and left. Saul slaughtered the Amalekites. But he and his men kept the best of the animals.

The next day, Samuel went to see Saul, who greeted him cheerfully. "The Lord bless you. I have carried out the Lord's command!"

"Then why do I hear the bleating of sheep and the lowing of cattle?"

"Oh... well... it's true... the men spared the best of the animals. They're going to sacrifice them to the Lord. We've destroyed everything else. And I've captured Agag, the Amalekite king."

Samuel replied, "Obedience is better than sacrifice. Because you have rejected the command of the Lord, the Lord has rejected you as king." As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore his robe. Samuel said, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to a better man."

Saul acknowledged his sin and worshiped the Lord. Then Samuel said to King Agag, "As your sword has killed the sons of many mothers, now your mother will be childless." The prophet took a sword and cut Agag to pieces before the Lord.

Samuel never again went to see Saul, but mourned over him constantly. And the Lord regretted having made Saul king in the first place.