

## I Samuel 4

**Chapter 13:** History of Saul's reign. Repeated through historical books and accounts.

Saul does well as long as Samuel is with him. Then starts to make bad decisions.

Chooses 3000 men for operations against the Philistines. He commands 2000 and Jonathan 1000. Unwise decision to let the other go home. **Then** Jonathan attacks Philistine garrison. Wins. Saul wants Israelites to know and to muster for war against Philistines.

Philistines are provoked and mass a huge army of men, chariots, and horses. Israelites are afraid and hide in caves and some go to Gad on east bank of the Jordan.

Samuel was supposed to come at an appointed time. Saul did NOT wait the whole time but acted too early; time was not up. Saul offered a burnt offering. Saul was worried that the people were losing heart and leaving. Tested and failed. Lost his kingdom.

Did wrong: attacked Philistines without God's approval; did not wait for Samuel to offer sacrifice. Samuel tells Saul that God will not give him authority over Israel and that God will seek a man **after His own heart**.

Philistines attack and overrun the Land. Take all the blacksmiths. Israelites have no weapons. All the smiths are in the enemy land. All caused by Saul's disobedience.

**Chapter 14 :** Jonathan and his armor bearer went to the Philistine camp. They kill some Philistines in a short time and short distance and the Philistines panic. Start to retreat. They thought an army of Israelites was attacking. Philistines are slaying each other. Israel didn't have many weapons. Jonathan trusts that God will be on their side. Battle then shifts. Saul has only 600 men and calls for the priest and the Ark- doesn't want to make same mistake again.

Saul forbids anyone to eat. Wanted them to fight the whole day. That oath was his doing and not from God.

Jonathan eats honey that was flowing; he didn't hear his father's order. Thought they would all do better if they ate something.

They killed the animals in the Philistine land and ate them with the blood. Violated the Law. This was Saul's fault. Saul then had animals brought to him and let the blood run out. Built an altar.

Saul condemns Jonathan but people save him.

Michal.

Sovereignty of Saul over Israel complete. Enemies out of the Land.

**Chapter 15** : Samuel comes back. Has Word from the LORD. Reminds Saul that he (Samuel) had anointed him king over Israel. Listen to His voice. Calls Him LORD of Hosts. Hosts of Israel; hosts of angels, hosts of Heaven.

God says He will blot out the memory of Amalek (Deut 25:18). They fought the Israelites after they left Egypt. Wants Saul to do it. Spares the Kenites (Jethro's people). Amalek destroyed. Judgment on Israel's enemies.

God regretted making Saul king. He didn't really follow. Was concerned with his own strength and power. Samuel was upset and interceded for Saul. Saul builds a victory monument for himself. He also took the best animals from Amalek for sacrifices. Disobeyed.

Obedying is better than sacrifices. Rebellion is sin.

The LORD had rejected Saul from being king. Samuel tells him that someone else, a neighbor, will be king.

Saul's excuses were weak. The he says he sinned when Samuel tells him the kingdom is to be taken from him. Confesses to Samuel rather than to God. Asks Samuel to forgive his sin. Doesn't get it. When David confesses after he talks to Nathan, he confesses to God (Psalm 51).

Samuel kills Agag, the Amalekite king. Completes God's command that Saul didn't carry out.

Never sees Saul again.

