

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding greenery and sky. The background is filled with a dense forest of tall, green trees under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel

## Lesson 5

**1 Samuel Chapters 13-15**

**Saul's Disobedience**

# Two Themes For This Study

1. Follow God's Commands
2. Repent

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Chapter 13-God Rejects Saul as His anointed

## Vs. 1-7-Saul's Victory Over the Philistines

- Saul began to reign at approximately 30 years old. He reigned 40 years over Israel.
- The Philistines waged war against Israel. Why? (Deuteronomy 7:1-10). [\*]



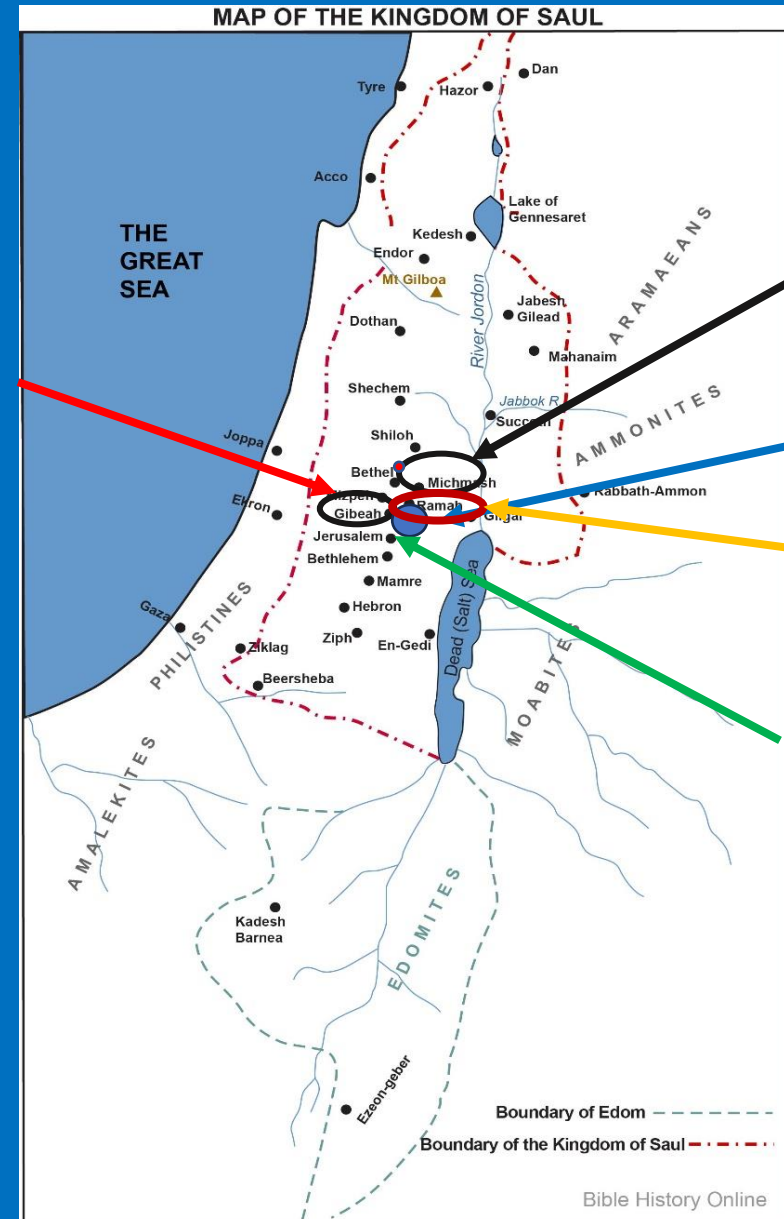
Michmash  
(*mick-mash*)

Gibeah-Saul's  
Hometown

Geba

- Saul chose for himself 3,000 men of which 2,000 stayed with him in Michmash (*mick-mash*), about 7 miles NE of Jerusalem.
- Jonathan, Saul's son, had 1,000 men with him at Gibeah of Benjamin. For whatever reason, Saul sent the rest of his army home.

Gibeah-  
(Saul's  
Hometown)



Michmash

Geba

Ramah  
(Samuel's  
Hometown)

Jerusalem

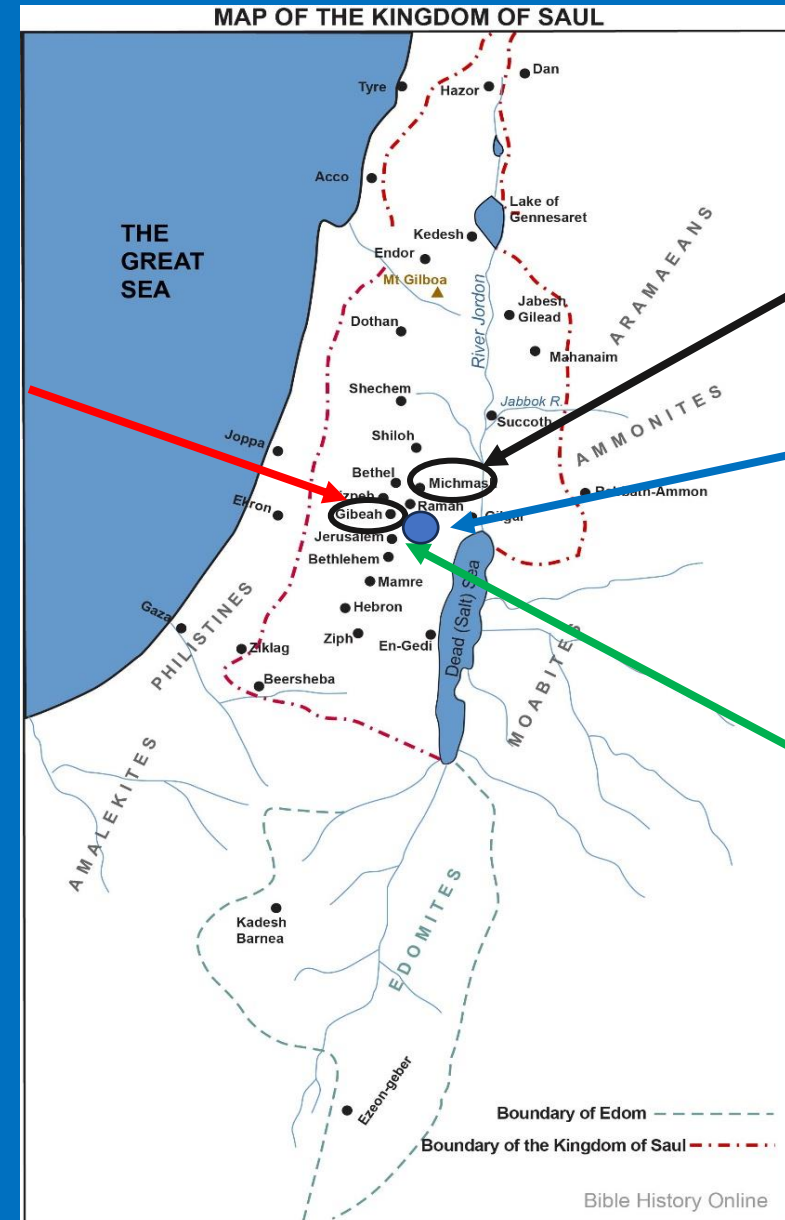
- **Jonathan** smote the garrison of Philistines in Geba. Unfortunately, we begin to see the true character of Saul. Instead of giving credit to Jonathan, he gathered the people together and took the credit for the victory.  
1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 13:3-4 [ ]

Gibeah

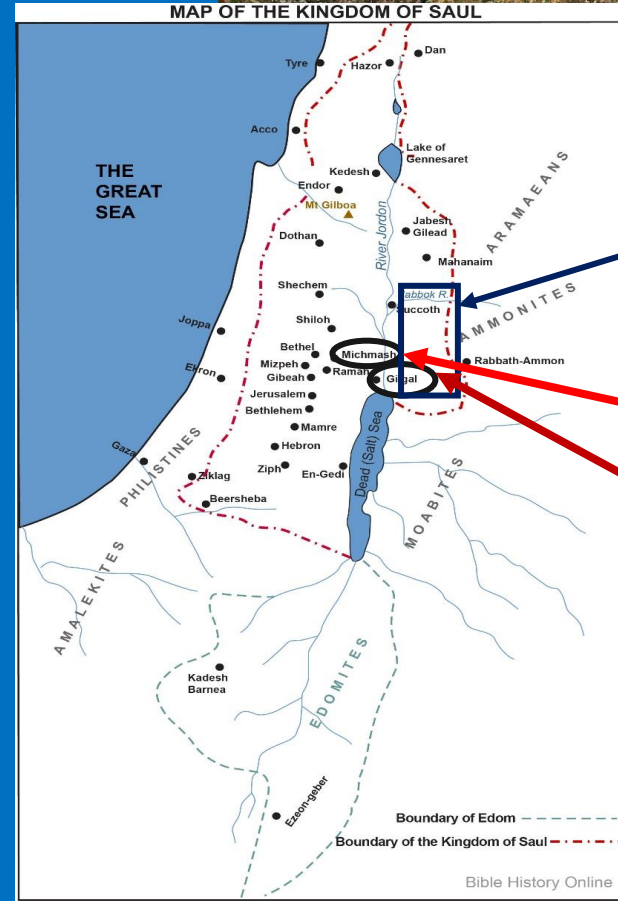
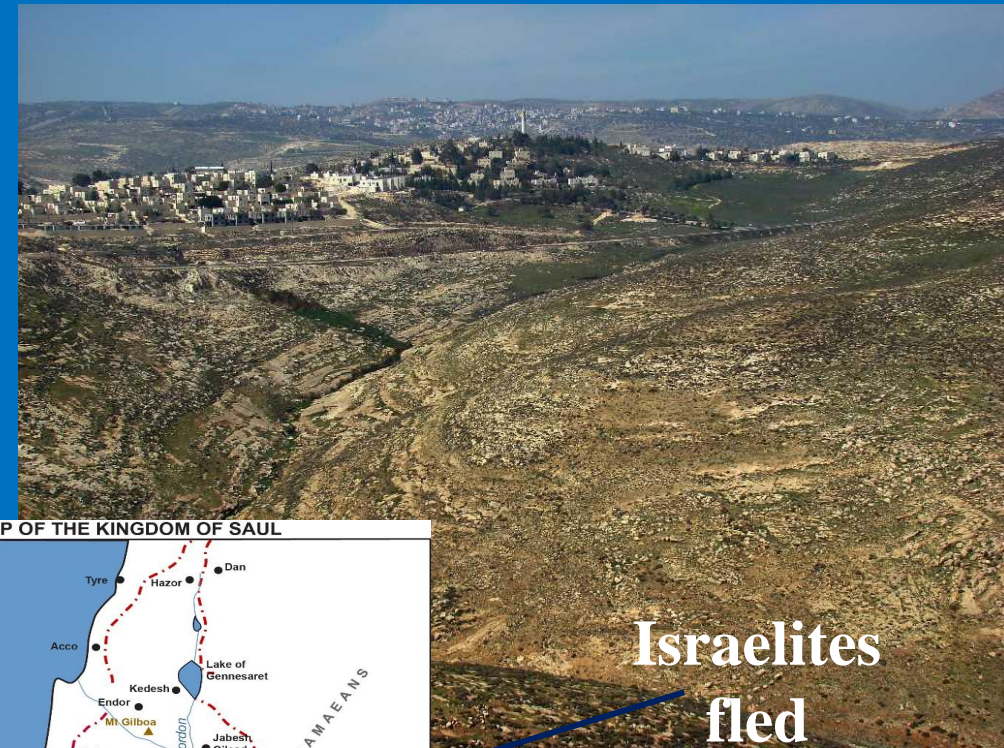
Michmash

Geba

Jerusalem



- After the defeat, the Philistines assembled **30,000** chariots and 6,000 horsemen to fight Israel. The Philistines camped at Michmash (I wonder whether Saul now wished he had given the credit to Jonathan-lol).

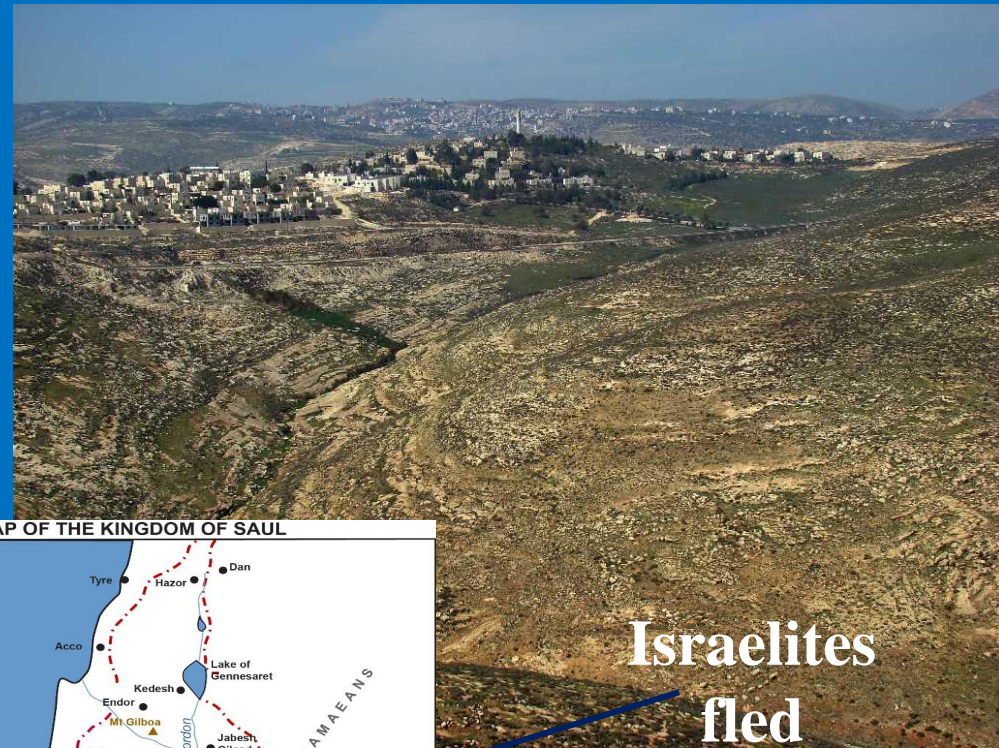


Israelites fled

Michmash

Gilgal

- The Israelites hid in caves, thickets, cliffs, cellars, pits, and some crossed east of the Jordan River into the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul, however, remained in Gilgal (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 13:5-7).



Israelites fled

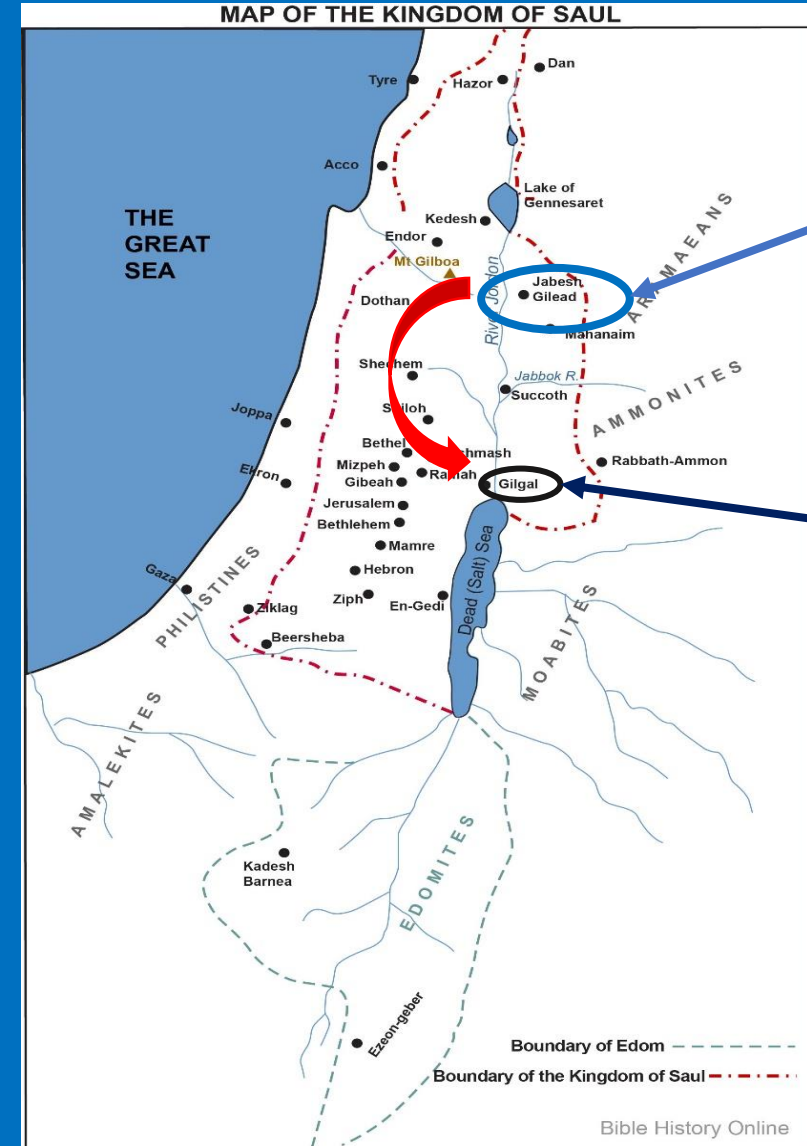


Michmash

Gilgal-  
"rolling/circle"

# Vs. 8-12-Saul Oversteps His Bounds and Offers the Burnt and Peace Offerings

- Earlier, Samuel told Saul to wait for him at **Gilgal** (Chapter 10:8) [\*].
- Samuel told Saul to wait seven days for him to arrive. For some reason, Samuel did not arrive at the appointed time and some of the people began to leave (Zechariah 4:6) [\*].

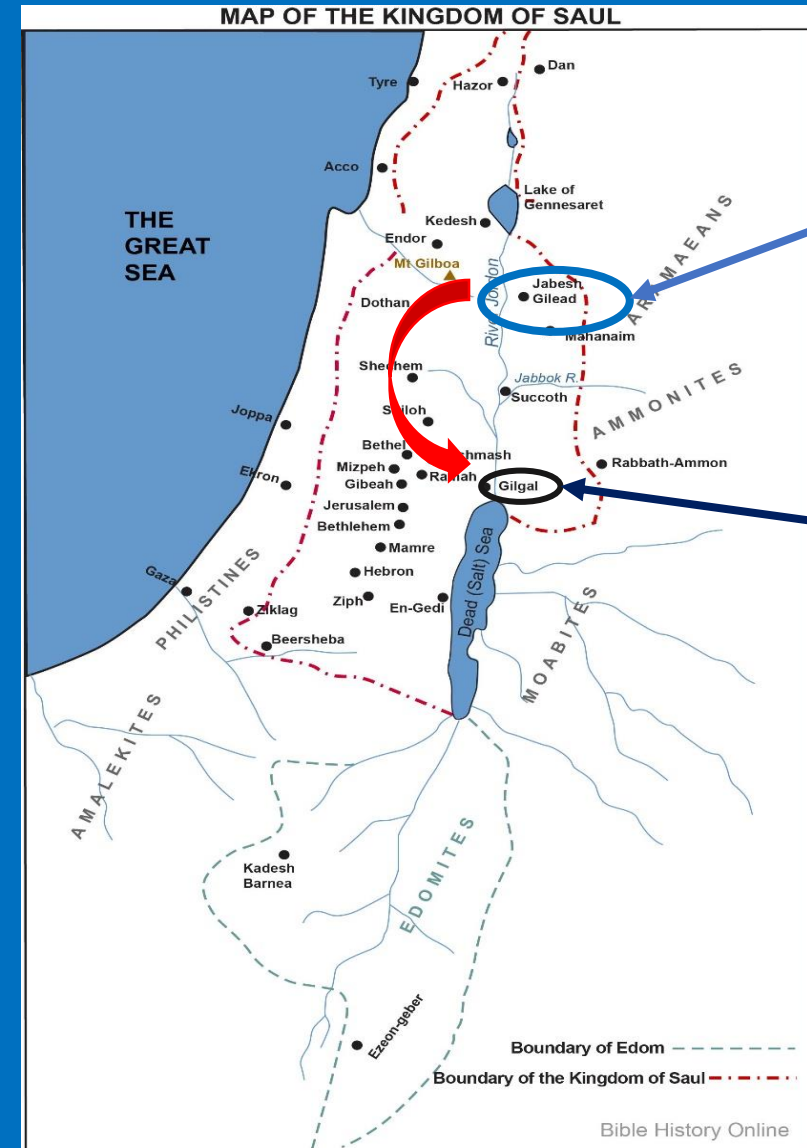


Jabesh-Gilead

Gilgal



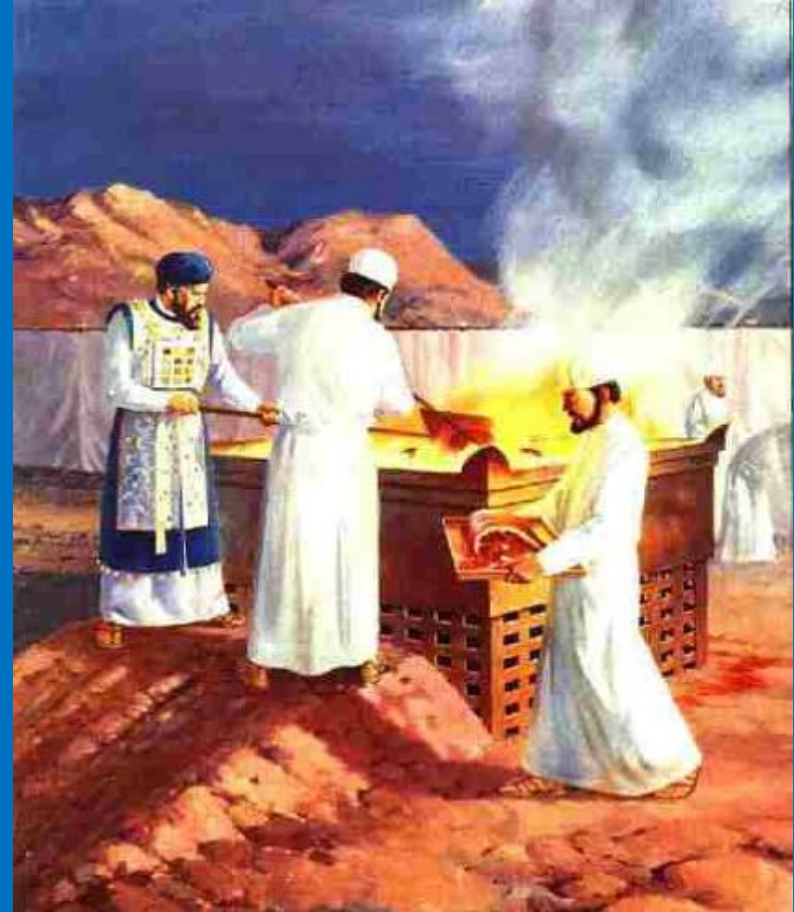
- To **unify** the people, Saul did not wait for Samuel but offered the burnt and peace offerings himself.



Jabesh-Gilead

Gilgal

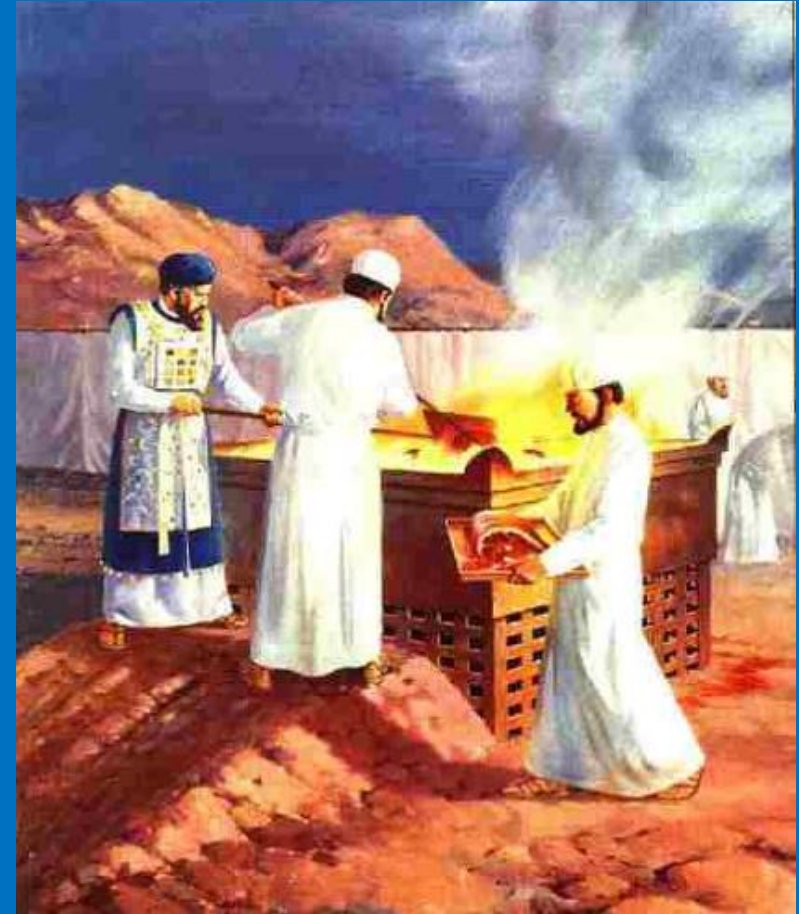
- The Israelites offered the peace offerings and thanked God for His good works.<sup>1</sup>
- The burnt offerings symbolized completeness. According to the Old Testament, the burnt offerings stood for the highest order of sacrifice to the Lord.<sup>2</sup>



<http://biblestudyoutlines.org/bible-study-lessons/old-testament-bible-study/exodus-27-bible-study/attachment/the-altar-of-burnt-offering/>

- <sup>1</sup><http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11966-peace-offerin>
- <sup>2</sup><http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3847-burnt-offering>

- When Saul offered the sacrifice, he showed his desire to rule as an **autocrat** in civil and sacred matters.
- Samuel might have waited to test Saul's character and obedience to God. (James 1:12) [\*]
- Crown of Life is different from the Book of Life (Revelation 20:12,15) [\*]



<http://biblestudyoutlines.org/bible-study-lessons/old-testament-bible-study/exodus-27-bible-study/attachment/the-altar-of-burnt-offering/>

- Immediately after the offerings, Samuel arrived and asked Saul what he had done.
- “What have you done? You have acted foolishly.” *Non-repentance* (Hebrews 10:31 Matthew 7:23; Revelation 20:15) [\*]
- God does not desire any to perish (2 Peter 3:9, Titus 2:11, Ezekiel 18:23) [\*]



<http://wildmenofgod.com/2014/11/king-saul/>

- Saul said he offered the sacrifices since the people started to disperse; Samuel arrived late; and the Philistines had assembled at Michmash.
- The Philistines arrived with 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen.
- Saul said he “**forced**” himself to make the sacrifice-yea-right!



<http://wildmenofgod.com/2014/11/king-saul/>

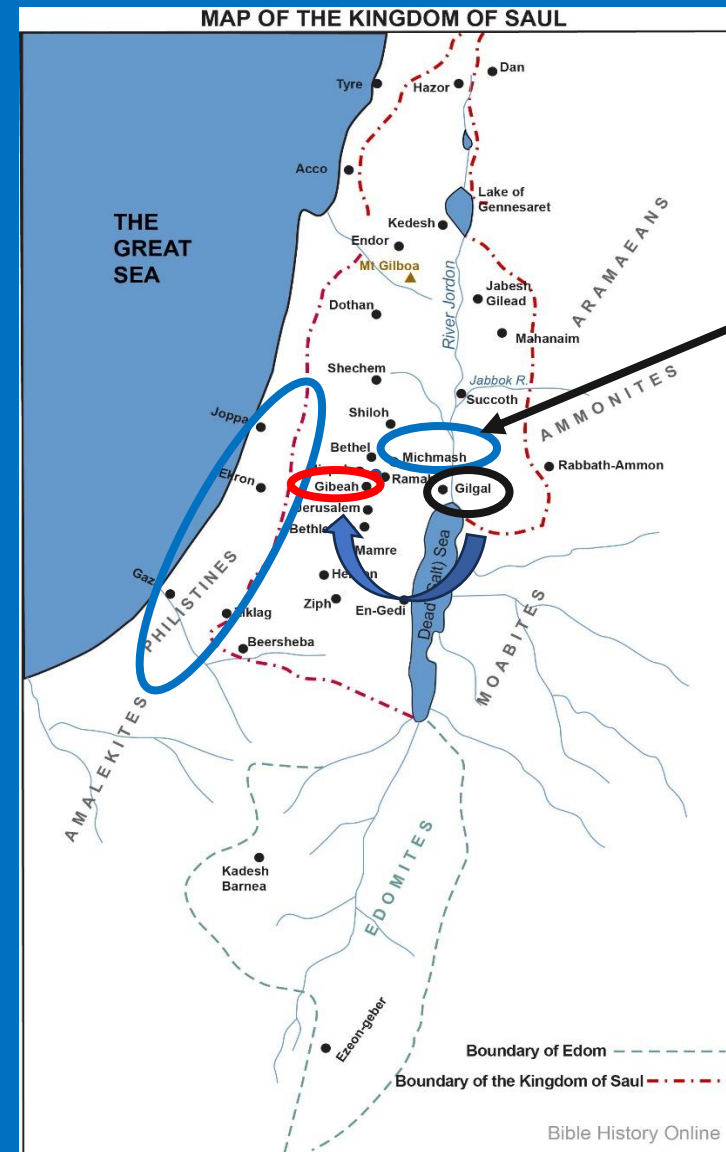
## Vs. 13-23-Samuel Reprimands Saul

- Samuel **rebuked** Saul and said his kingdom would not last.
- Samuel told Saul God would establish another king for Himself, a man after His own heart.
- David would fulfill this prophecy. Apparently, the Messiah would have come from Saul's line but now it would come from the line of David.



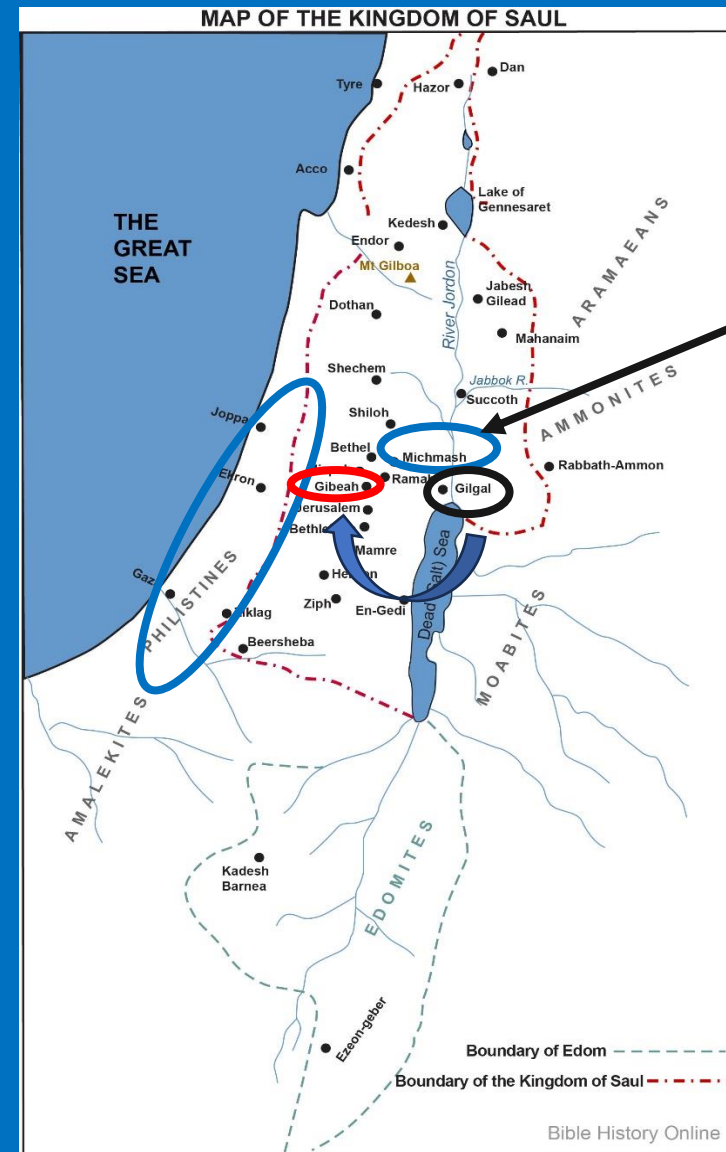
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- Scriptures do not indicate Saul ever **repented**. Scripture simply states Samuel went up from Gilgal to Gibeah.
- Compare Saul's response to David's (Psalm 51:2-3,11) [\*]
- The Philistines planned a raid against Israel.
- Saul's followers numbered **600** men.



Michmash

- The Philistines had a monopoly on iron and metal-working craftsmen until the time of David's reign.
- As a result, the Israelites went to the Philistine camp and sharpened their farming tools. Apparently, the Israelites did not have adequate weapons. The Philistines saw a and charged the Israelites a high price.



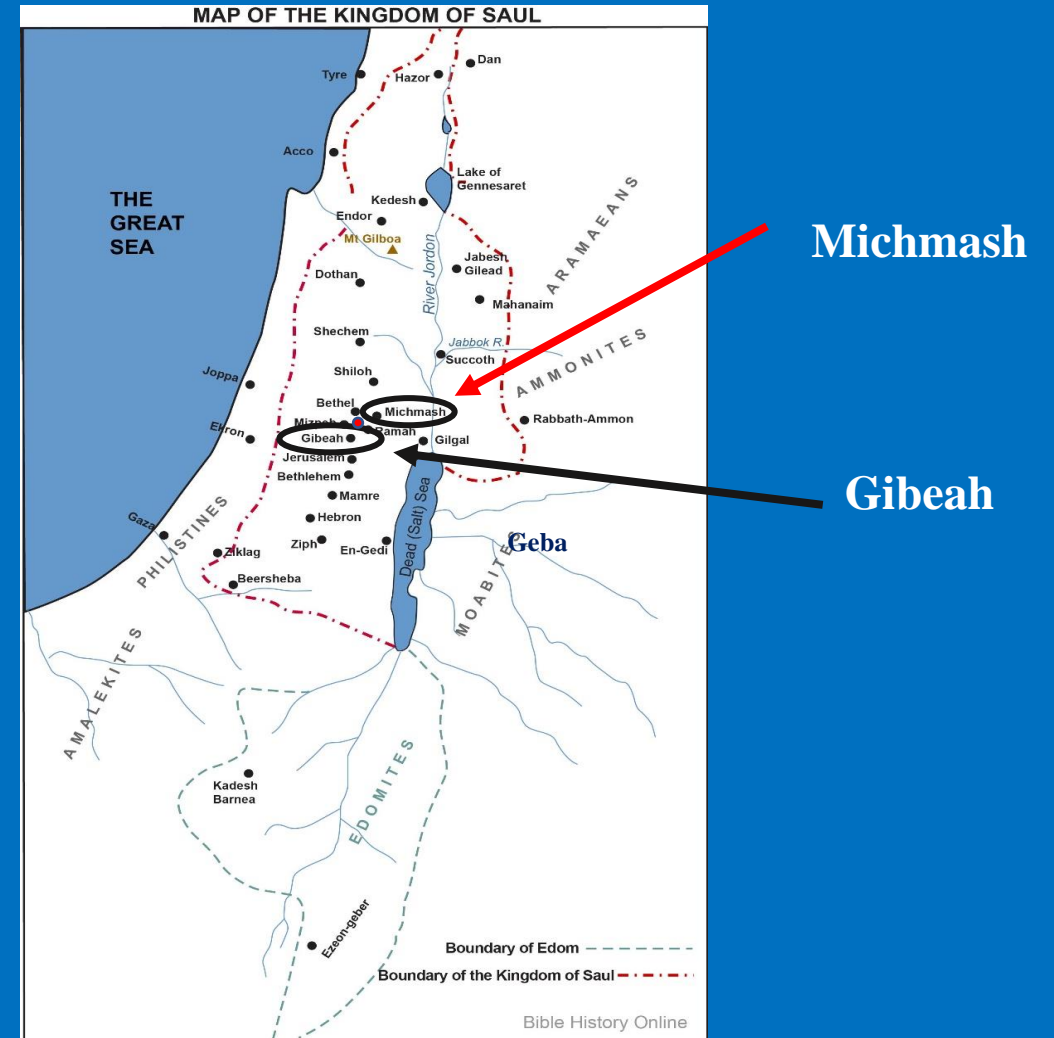
<http://www.bible-history.com/maps/Map-Kingdom-of-Saul-enlarged.jpg>



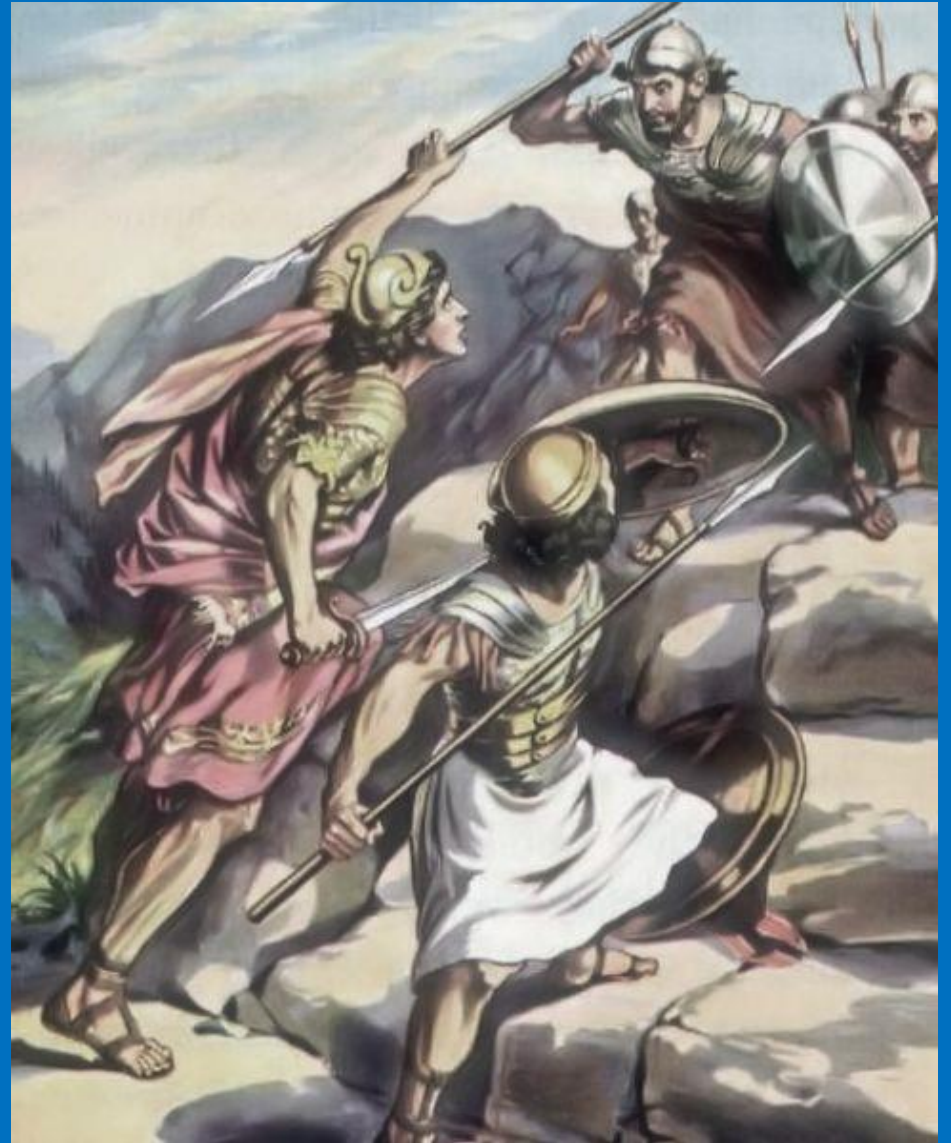
# Chapter 14-Saul's Unwise Vows

## Vs. 1-23-Jonathan's Victory Over the Philistines

- The Philistines camped at Michmash while Saul camped on the outskirts of Gibeah. Saul had about 600 men with him.
- Apparently, Saul did not consult **Ahijah**, the high priest-great-grandson of Eli, concerning the will of the Lord.



- The Lord gave Jonathan tremendous courage. He took his armorbearer and crossed over to the Philistine camp.
- Jonathan threw out a **fleece** (a test) and said to his armorbearer, “If the Philistines come over us, we will not fight them. However, if the Philistines tell us to come to them, we will know the Lord has delivered the Philistines into our hands.”



- The Philistines called Jonathan over. He and his armorbearer knew the Lord would grant them victory. Jonathan and his armorbearer killed about **twenty** men.
- The Lord sent a trembling throughout the camp and a great earthquake shook the land.



- Saul heard the commotion and realized Jonathan and his armor bearer had left.
- Saul summoned Ahijah to consult the Lord. As the commotion increased, Saul—in haste, ordered the priest to **stop** his inquiry. Compare Samuel with Saul (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 7:7-10) [\*]
- Saul rallied the people, and the Israelites scattered the Philistines.



<http://www.scienceofcorrespondences.com/jonathan-s-victory--1-samuel-14-1-23-.htm>

## Vs. 24-52

- The Israelites fell to exhaustion since Saul had placed them under an oath not to eat until he had avenged the Israelites.
- Unfortunately, Jonathan did not hear the oath and he tasted some honey on the ground.



<http://www.biblevector.com/2011/03/bible-stories-john.html>

- Due to extreme hunger, the Israelites began eating the Philistines' **uncooked** animals. Eating blood violated God's Law.



- Saul inquired whether they should pursue the Philistines and gather the spoils. The Lord did not answer due to Jonathan's disobedience to Saul's oath.
- When Saul learned Jonathan had eaten the honey, he condemned Jonathan to die. Apparently, Saul valued his positional authority more than the life of his son.



- Fortunately, the people rescued Jonathan from Saul's judgment.
- Saul continued to pursue and inflict punishment upon Israel's enemies. He acted **valiantly** and expanded Israel's borders.
- We will later reference Abner, Saul's captain of the army and the son of Saul's uncle.



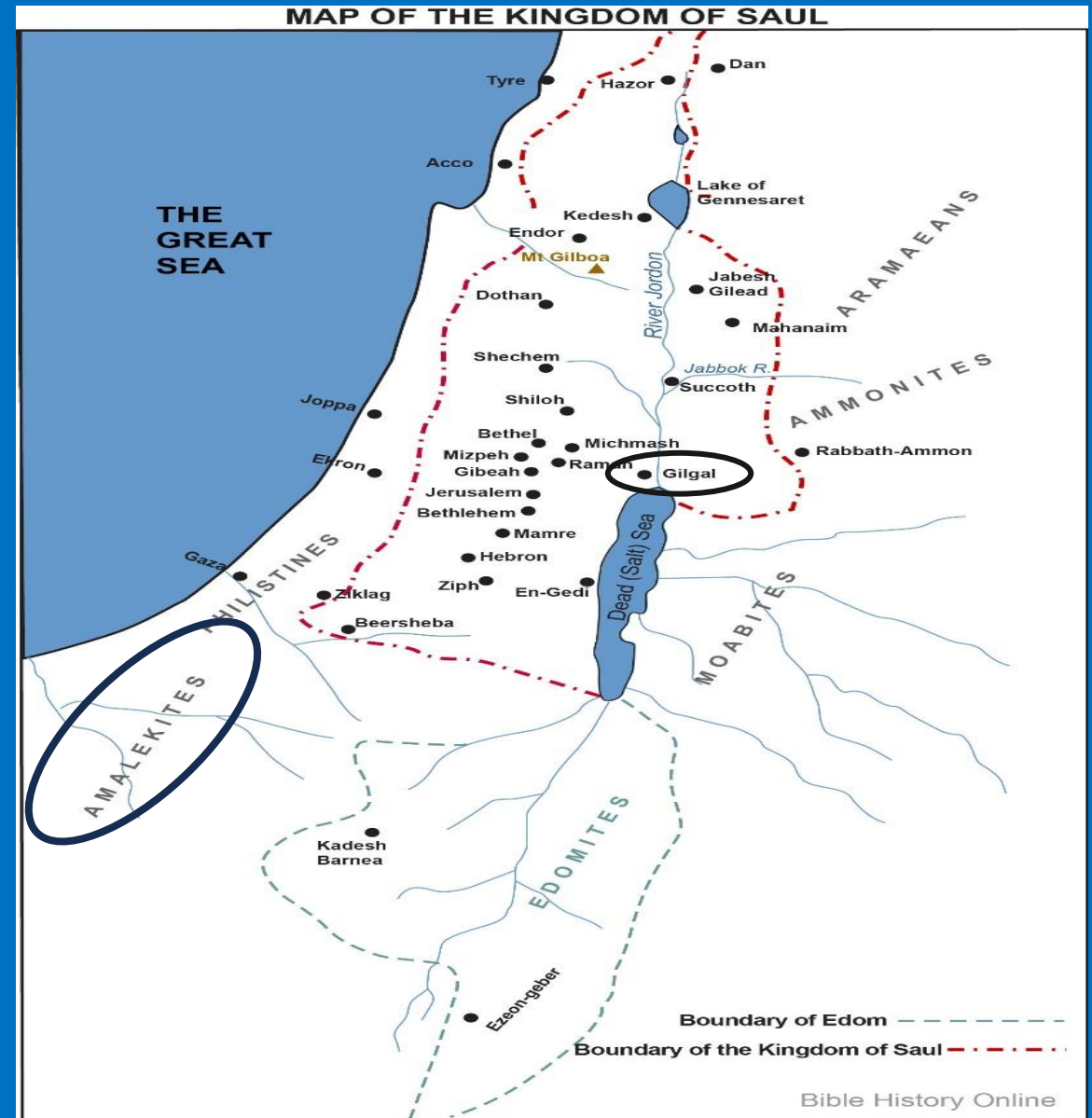
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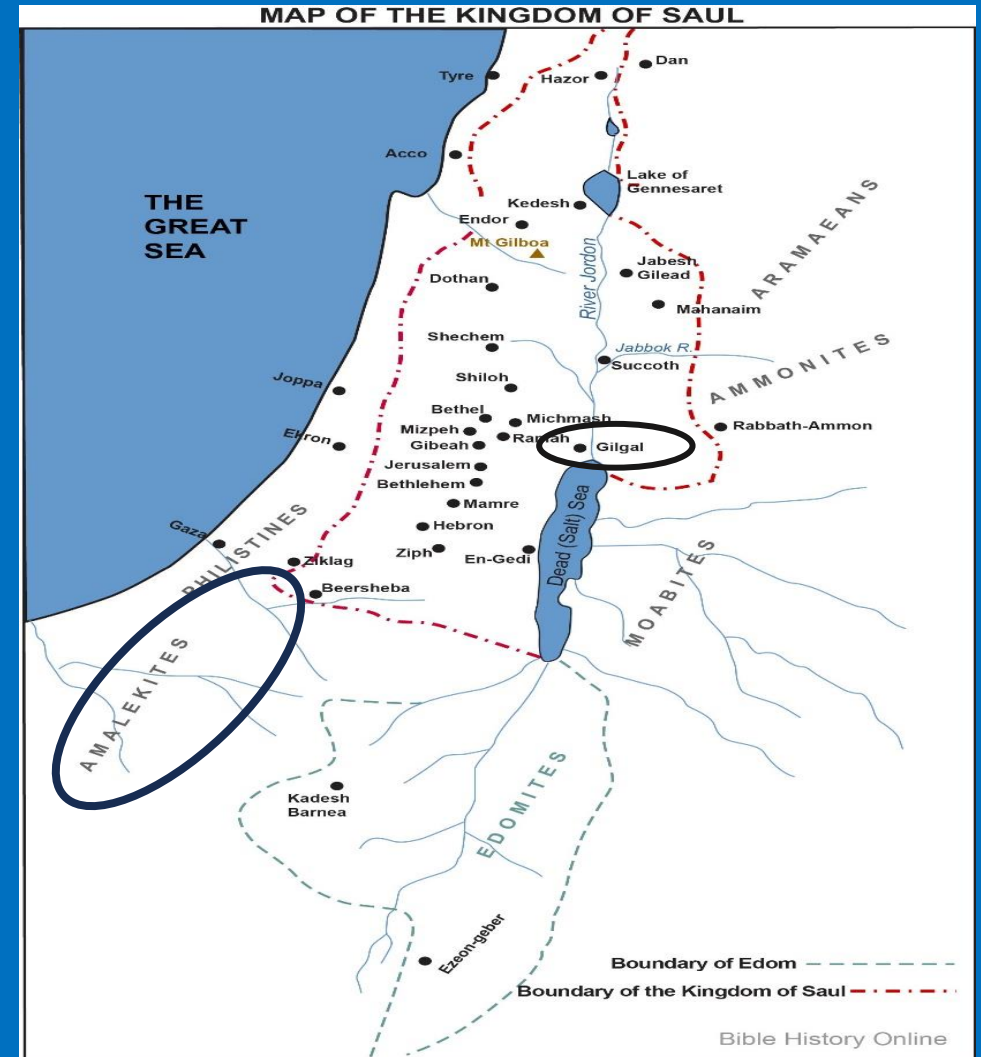
# Chapter 15-Saul's Partial Obedience

## Vs. 1-9-Saul Disobeys God's Order to Destroy the Amalekites

- God sent Samuel to **anoint** Saul as king over Israel.
- The Amalekites, descendants of Esau, attacked Israel in the desert during the days of Moses.



- Because of their harsh treatment, God sent judgment upon the Amalekite nation.
- God told Saul to destroy all the Amalekites, anything living or nonliving.
- This judgment appeared harsh, but this characterized God's ultimate judgment for those who refuse Him. (Revelation 20:11-15) [\*]



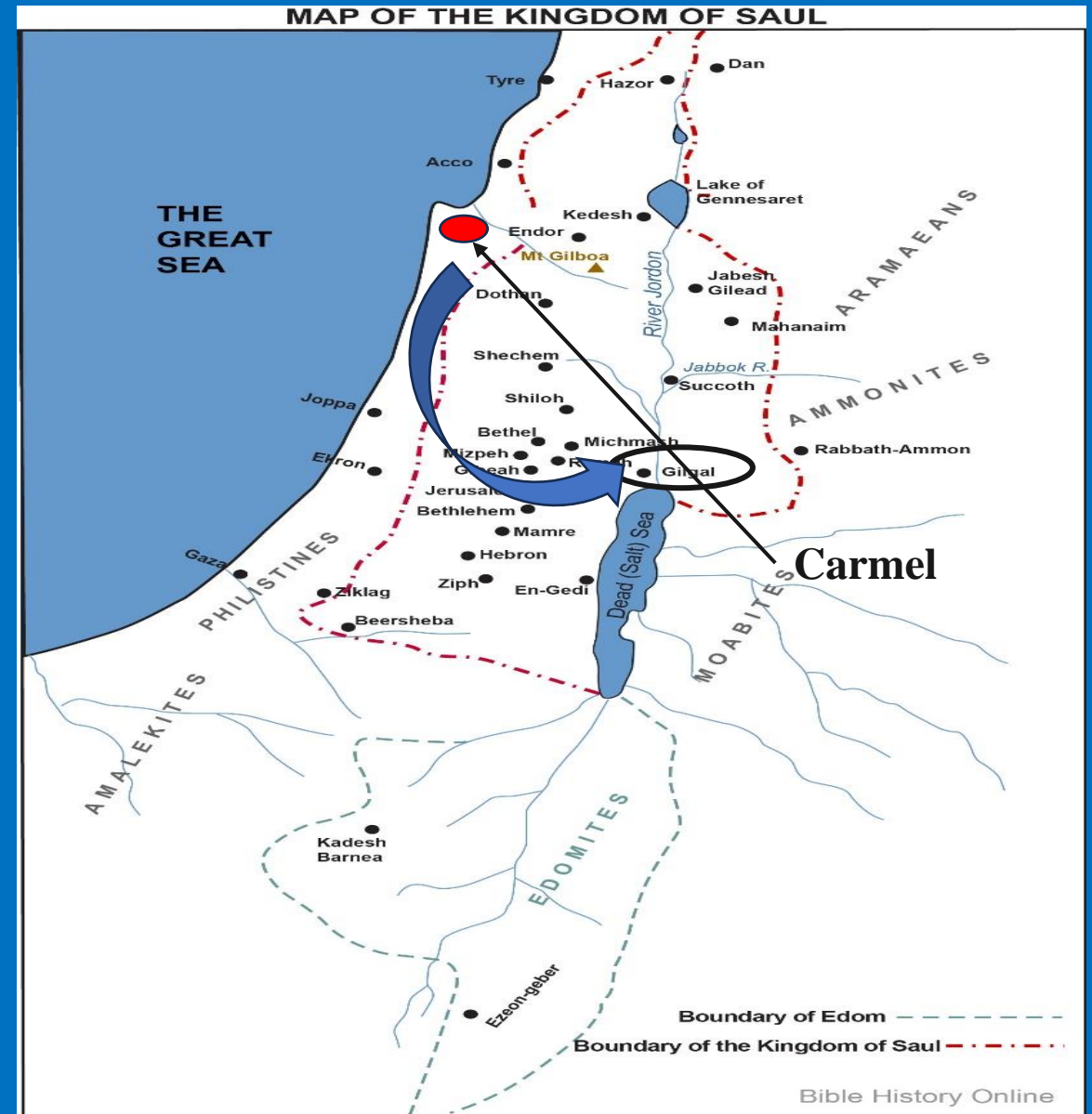
- Saul disobeyed God's word and saved the Amalekite king. He also allowed the Israelites to keep the Amalekite's best animals and material goods.



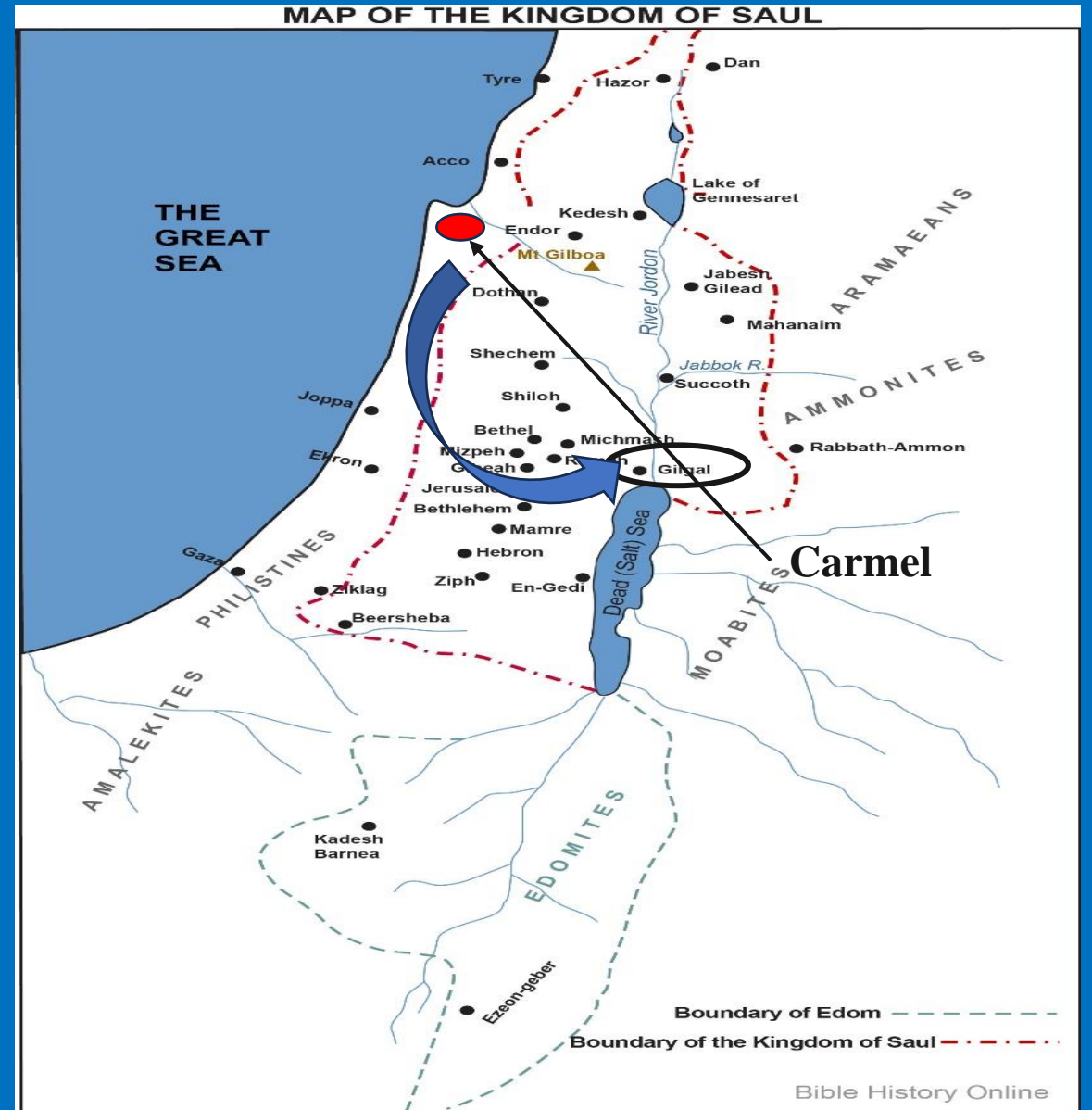
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# Vs. 10-35-God Rejects Saul as King

- God told Samuel he **regretted** making Saul king. Samuel grieved over Saul's failure to serve God.
- Saul set up a monument for himself in Carmel and then went down to Gilgal.



- Samuel asked Saul about the spoils. Saul tried to make an excuse by saying he saved the animals for sacrifice.



- Samuel reprimanded Saul for his disobedience. Instead of asking for forgiveness, Saul said, “I did obey the voice of the Lord, and went on the mission on which the Lord sent me...”



<http://wildmenofgod.com/2014/11/king-saul/>

- Saul blamed the people for keeping the best of the spoils. Note how Saul answered Samuel, “But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”



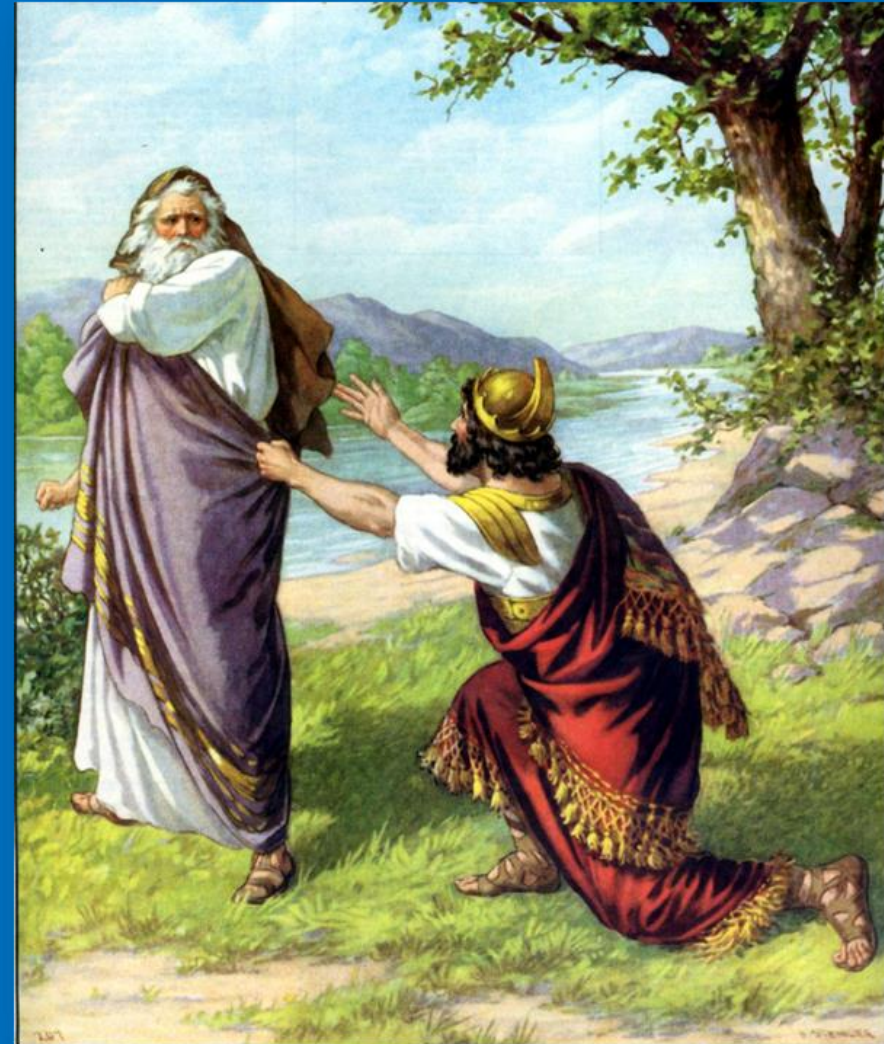
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- God gives us a strong message in Vs. 22, “...Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...”
- Samuel told Saul God had rejected him as king.

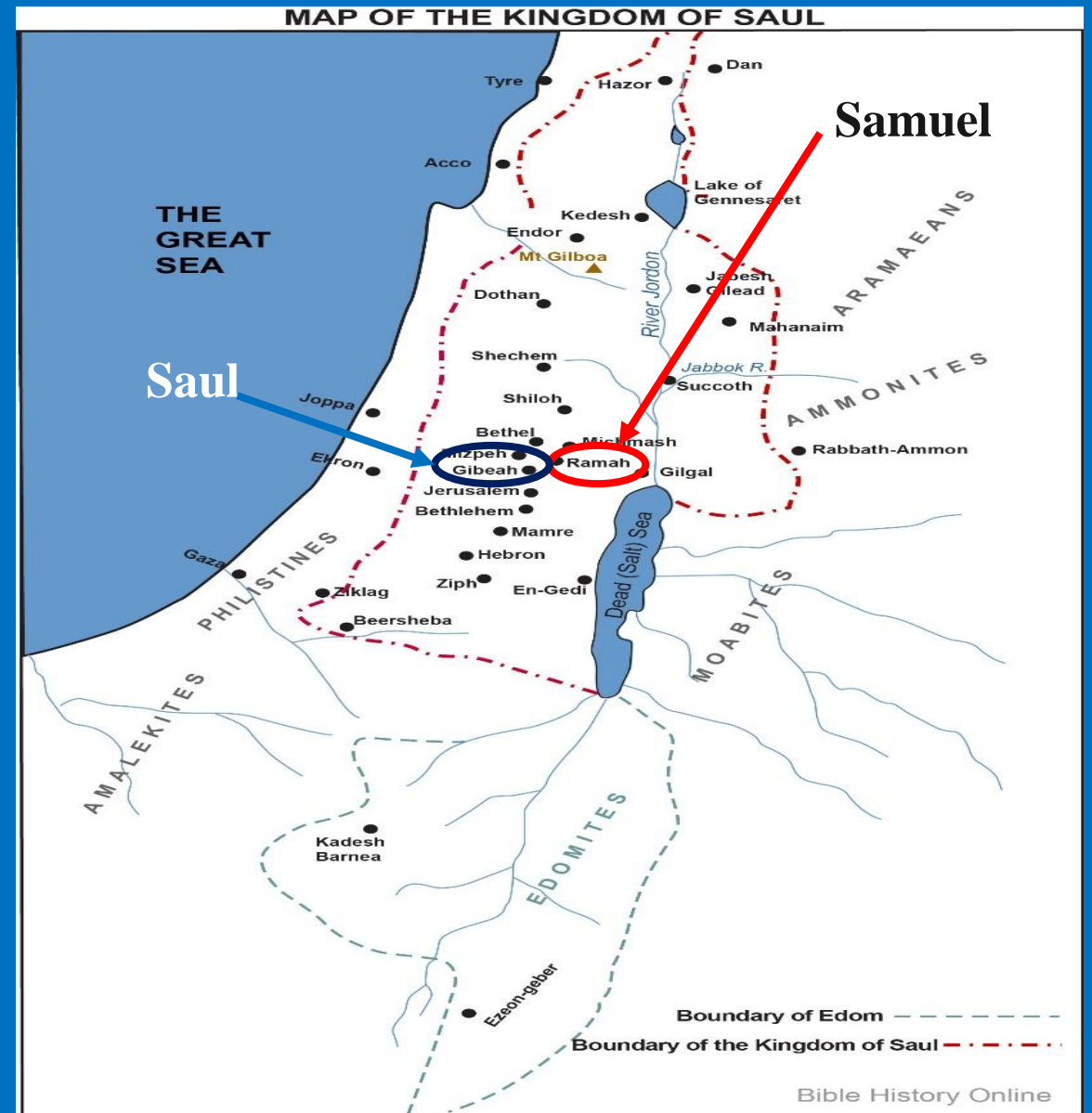




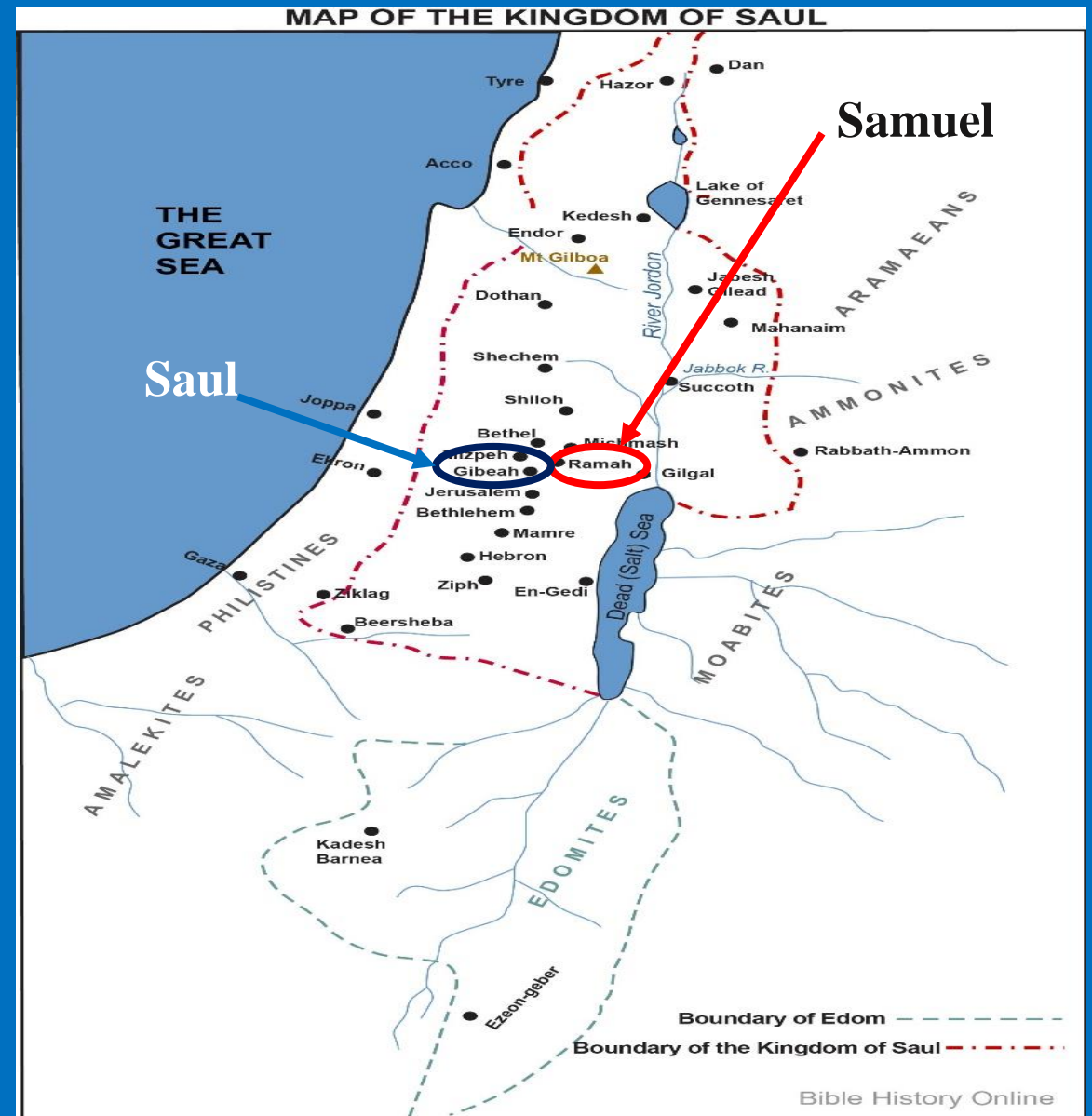
- As Samuel turned to go, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and tore it. Samuel stated God had also torn the kingdom from Saul.



- Saul admitted he had sinned. However, Saul's pride centered more upon his image. Saul wanted Samuel to accompany him to make the appearance of Samuel's support.
- Samuel killed Agag king of the Amalekites.



- Samuel went to his home in **Ramah** and Saul went up to his house at **Gibeah**.
- Samuel never saw Saul alive again and yet he grieved over Saul. The Lord regretted he had made Saul king over Israel.



## Summary

The Lord blesses those who honor and obey Him. Obeying often means waiting patiently for the Lord to work. God understands our weaknesses and remains an ever-present help in times of trouble. When faced with tough decisions, we often jump to answers and conclusions too quickly. Decision making often involves spending time with God, His Word, and fellow Christians. We need to ask and seek advice. Most importantly, we must take God with us each step of the way. Trust God and He will lead.

End----]

## Deuteronomy 7:1-10

- 1 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, 2 and when the LORD your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.

Over---

3 Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. 4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you. 5 But thus you shall do to them: you shall tear down their altars, and smash their *sacred* pillars, and hew down their Asherim, and burn their graven images with fire.

Over---

6 For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Over---

9 Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; 10 but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face. [\*]



## 1 Samuel 13:3-4

3 Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of *it*. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear." 4 All Israel heard the news that Saul had smitten the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become odious to the Philistines. The people were then summoned to Saul at Gilgal. [ ]

## Deuteronomy 7:12-14; 17-19

12 "Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers. 13 He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you.

Over---

14 You shall be blessed above all peoples; there will be no male or female barren among you or among your cattle... 17 "If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?' 18 you shall not be afraid of them; you shall well remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: 19 the great trials which your eyes saw and the signs and the wonders and the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. [ ]

## 1 Samuel 7:7-10

7 Now when the Philistines heard that the sons of Israel had gathered to Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the sons of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. 8 Then the sons of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines." 9 Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it for a whole burnt offering to the LORD; and Samuel cried to the LORD for Israel and the LORD answered him.

Over---

10 Now Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, and the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day against the Philistines and confused them, so that they were routed before Israel. [\*]

## 1 Samuel 14:19-20

19 While Saul talked to the priest, the commotion in the camp of the Philistines continued and increased; so 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 against his fellow, *and there was very great confusion.* [ ]

## 1 Samuel 10:8

8 And you shall go down before me to Gilgal; and behold, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings. You shall wait seven days until I come to you and show you what you should do.” [\*]

## 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 13:5-7

5 Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the seashore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven. 6 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, in thickets, in cliffs, in cellars, and in pits. 7 Also some of the Hebrews crossed the Jordan into the land of Gad and Gilead. But as for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. [\*]



Hebrews 10:31

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Matthew 7:23

And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; Depart from Me...”

Revelation 20:15

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. [\*]

## 2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

## Titus 2:11

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

## Ezekiel 18:23

23 Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord God, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?



## Psalm 51:2-3,11

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.



## Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead (*those who refused Christ*), the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death (*body*) and Hades (*spirit*) gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

Over---

14 Then death (*body*) and Hades (*spirit*) were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death (*eternal separation from God*), the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. [\*]

## James 1:12

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him (ESV). [\*]

## Zechariah 4:6

6 Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. [<sup>\*</sup>]

## Revelation 20:12,15

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done... 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. [\*]