

15[1] And Samuel said to Saul, “Yehvah sent me to anoint you for king over his people, over Israel. And now, listen to the voice of Yehvah's words. [2] Thus says Yehvah of hosts, 'I will visit Amalek for what he did to Israel when he was set¹ for him on the way in his coming up from Egypt.² [3] Now go, and strike Amalek and you shall utterly destroy³ all that is his and do not have pity on him, and kill from man to woman, from child and to infant, from ox and to sheep, from camel and to donkey.”

[4] And Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim,⁴ two hundred thousand on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah. [5] And Saul came unto a city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley. [6] And Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, turn aside, go down from among the Amalekite, lest I remove you with him. So, you did kindness with all sons of Israel in their going up from Egypt. So, turn aside from among Amalek.”

[7] And Saul struck Amalek from Havilah, in your going to Shur, which is on the face of Egypt. [8] And he caught Agag, king of Amalek, alive, and all the people he utterly destroyed with a sword's mouth. [9] And Saul and the people had pity on Agag and on the best of the flock and the cattle and the seconds and upon the lambs and upon all the good ones, and they were unwilling to utterly destroy them. And everything despised and worthless, it they utterly destroyed.

[10] And Yehvah's word was to Samuel, saying, [11] “I am sorry that I made reign Saul for king, for he has turned back from after me; and my word he has not caused to stand.”⁵ And Samuel was angry,⁶ and cried out to Yehvah all the night. [12] And Samuel arose early to meet Saul in the morning, and it was told to Samuel, saying, “Saul has come in to Carmel. And behold, he is setting up for himself a monument.⁷ And he has gone around and crossed over and gone down to the Gilgal.

[13] And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you to Yehvah. I have caused to stand⁸ Yehvah's word.” [14] And Samuel said, “And what is the sound of this flock in my ears and the sound of cattle that I am hearing?” [15] And Saul said, “From an Amalekite they brought them which the people had pity⁹ on from the best of the flock and the cattle, in order to sacrifice to Yehvah your Gods; and the rest we utterly destroyed.”

1 שָׁם (sâm) “set” NAS; “ambushed” NKJV; “laid wait” KJV; “laid” YLT

2 Deuteronomy 25:17-19

3 הַחֲרַמְתֶּם (hacharamtem) “you shall utterly destroy” - plural “you”

4 תְּלַיִם (telâ'ym) “Telaim”; LXX Γαλγαλοῖς (Galgalois) “Gilgal” - only here.

5 הִקְיָם (hêqiyim) “cause to stand”; NKJV, KJV, YLT “performed”; NAS “carried out” - same exact word as e.g. in Numbers 30:15 where a husband “confirms” (NKJV) or causes “to stand” (TT) a wife's vow.

6 יָחַר לְשׁוּמוֹאֵל (yichar lishmuêl) “Samuel was angry” Green, WYC, etc.; “grieved” NKJV, KJV; “displeasing” YLT; “distressed” NAS; more literally, “it was burning to Samuel” - same exact verb and syntax as e.g. in Genesis 31:36 where “Jacob was angry” (NKJV).

7 יָד (yâd) “monument” - more literally, “hand” - used in this same way in 2 Samuel 18:18 “Yad Absalom” or “Absalom's Monument” (NKJV) יָד אֲבִשָּׁלֹם (yad 'avshâlôm), like in modern Israel e.g. “Yad Mordecai.”

8 הִקְיֵמֹתִי (haqiymotiy) “I have caused to stand” - same root word and form (hiphil) as in vs 11. Using the same basic term, Saul claims to have done the exact thing Yehvah said he did *not* do.

9 חָמַל (châmal) “had pity” - same term used in vs 3 in which Saul was commanded *not* to have pity.

[16] And Samuel said to Saul, “Be still, and I will declare to you what Yehvah spoke to me last night.” And they said¹⁰ to him, “Speak.” [17] And Samuel said, “When you were little in your eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And Yehvah anointed you to king over Israel. [18] And Yehvah sent you on a way and said, ‘Go and utterly destroy the sinners, Amalek, and wage war against him until they finish them.’¹¹ [19] So, why have you not listened to Yehvah's voice, and rushed to the spoil¹² and did the bad in Yehvah's eyes?”

[20] And Saul said to Samuel, “Which I did listen to Yehvah's voice, and I did go in the way that he sent me. And I brought Agag, king of Amalek, and Amalek I utterly destroyed. [21] And the people took from the spoil sheep and cattle, the first of that devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to Yehvah your Gods in the Gilgal.” [22] And Samuel said, “Does Yehvah delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in listening to Yehvah's voice? Behold, listening is better than sacrifice, to heed than fat of rams. [23] For rebellion is a sin of divination,¹³ and the insubordination¹⁴ is iniquity and teraphim.¹⁵ Because you have rejected Yehvah's word, so he has rejected you from being king.”

[24] And Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have passed over Yehvah's mouth and your words; for I feared the people¹⁶ and listened to their voice. [25] And now, bear¹⁷ my sin and return with me, and I will worship Yehvah.” [26] And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected Yehvah's word; and Yehvah has rejected you from being king over Israel.” [27] And Samuel turned around to go, and Saul grabbed an edge of his robe; and it tore. [28] And Samuel said to him, “Yehvah has torn Israel's kingdom from upon you today and given her to your neighbor better than you. [29] And also, Israel's eternal one¹⁸ will not lie and will not repent,¹⁹ for he is not a man to repent.”

[30] And he said, “I have sinned. Now, honor me, please, before my people's elders and before Israel, and return with me; and I will worship Yehvah your Gods.”

10 written יֹאמְרוּ (yo'mru) “they said”; read יֹאמֶר (yo'mer) “he said” - no reason it can not be plural.

11 כָּלוּתָם אֹתָם (kallotâm 'otâm) “they finish them” Green; “they are completely finished” ERV; “they are consumed” YLT, NKJV; “they are exterminated” NAS

12 תָּעַט אֶל-הַשָּׁלָל (ta'at 'el-hashâlâl) “rushed to the spoil” – this is how 1 Samuel 14:32 is in the “read.” “Written” is “made to spoil” (TT) יַעַשׂ אֶל-שָׁלָל (ya'as 'el-shâlâl).

13 קְסָם (qesem) “divination” YLT, NAS; “witchcraft” NKJV, KJV – see footnote for Numbers 22:7.

14 הַפְּצָר (haptsar) “the insubordination”; NAS “insubordination” (= “defiance of authority; refusal to obey orders” Oxford); NKJV, KJV, YLT “stubbornness” - Hiphil infinitive w/definite article, only here in Hiphil. Elsewhere, Qal for press in the sense of “urge” (e.g. 1 Samuel 28:23).

15 תְּרָפִים (terâphim) “teraphim”

16 Proverbs 29:25

17 שָׂא (sâ) “bear” YLT; “pardon” NKJV - “bear” in similar use e.g. Leviticus 19:17, תִּשָּׂא (tissâ) “bear” (NKJV)

18 נִצָּח (nêtsach) “eternal one”; CSB, CJB, EXB, ICB, NCV, OJB “Eternal One”; NKJV, KJV “Strength”; YLT “Pre-eminence”; NAS “Glory” - mostly used for everlastingness, e.g. used 2x in Isaiah 34:10 “forever and ever” (NKJV) לִנְצָח נִצָּח (lenêtsach netsâchiym); 2 Samuel 2:26 for, Shall the sword devour “forever”?; Lamentations 3:18 BDB “my endurance,” NKJV “My strength.”

19 יָנַחַם (yinnâchêm) “repent” - same root as “sorry” in vs 11 & 35.

[31] And Samuel returned after Saul, and Saul worshipped Yehvah.

[32] And Samuel said, “Bring near to me Agag, king of Amalek.” And Agag came to him in fetters.²⁰ And Agag said, “Surely, the bitterness of death has turned aside.” [33] And Samuel said, “Just as your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before Yehvah in the Gilgal.

[34] And Samuel went to the Height, and Saul went up to his house, Hill of Saul. [35] And Samuel did not again go to see Saul until the day of his death, for Samuel mourned for Saul. And Yehvah was sorry that he had made Saul reign over Israel.

20 מַעְדָּנוֹת (ma`adannot) “in fetters” ISV; “in chains” CEB, EXB, etc.; “cautiously” NKJV; “daintily” YLT – only also found in Job 38:31 “chains” (NAS), “cluster” (NKJV), “sweet influences” (YLT, KJV) of Pleiades.