

**CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?**

1. Why was the tribe of Benjamin the least populous, during Shaul's reign?
2. What predictions did Shmuel make to convince Shaul that he was chosen by G-d to be king?
3. Describe the events that led to Shaul being accepted by the vast majority of Israel.
4. Why was Shmuel opposed to the creation of a monarchy?
5. Why was Shaul ultimately rejected by G-d?

This and much more will be addressed in the sixth lecture of this series:  
**"Saul (*Shaul HaMelech*): The First of the Kings".**

To derive maximum benefit from this lecture, keep these questions in mind as you listen to the lecture and read through the outline. Go back to these questions once again at the end of the lecture and see how well you answer them.

PLEASE NOTE: This outline and source book were designed as a powerful tool to help you appreciate and understand the basis of Jewish History. Although the lectures can be listened to without the use of the outline, we advise you to read the outline to enhance your comprehension. Use it, as well, as a handy reference guide and for quick review.

**This lecture is dedicated to the merit and honor of the  
Elchonen Family**

SAUL (SHAUL HAMELECH): THE FIRST OF THE KINGS

I. The Appointment of King Saul

A.

וַיְהִי אִישׁ מִבְּנֵימִין וּשְׁמוֹ קִישׁ בֶּן אֲבִיאל בֶּן צְרוּר בֶּן בְּכוֹרֹת בֶּן אֶפְיָח בֶּן אִישׁ יְמִינֵי גִבּוֹר חָיִל: וְלוֹ הָיָה בֶן וּשְׁמוֹ שָׁאוּל בַּחּוּר וְטוֹב וְאִין אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל טוֹב מִמֶּנּוּ מִשְׁכֻּמוֹ וּמַעֲלָה גְבוּהַ מִכָּל הָעָם: וַתֵּאבְדְּנָה הָאֲתָנוֹת לְקִישׁ אָבִי שָׁאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר קִישׁ אֶל שָׁאוּל בְּנוֹ קַח נָא אֶתְךָ אֶת אֶחָד מֵהַנְּעָרִים וְקוּם לְךָ בְּקֶשׁ אֶת הָאֲתָנוֹת: וַיַּעֲבֹר בְּהַר אֶפְרַיִם וַיַּעֲבֹר בְּאֶרֶץ שְׁלֹשָׁה וְלֹא מָצְאוּ וַיַּעֲבֹרוּ בְּאֶרֶץ שְׁעָלִים וְאִין וַיַּעֲבֹר בְּאֶרֶץ יְמִינֵי וְלֹא מָצְאוּ: הִמָּה בָּאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ צוּף וּשְׁאוּל אָמַר לְנַעֲרוֹ אֲשֶׁר עִמּוֹ לָכֵה וּנְשׁוּבָה פֶּן יִחְדַּל אָבִי מִן הָאֲתָנוֹת וְדָאָג לָנוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִנֵּה נָא אִישׁ אֶל־לֵהִים בְּעִיר הַזֹּאת וְהָאִישׁ נֹכְבֵּד כָּל אֲשֶׁר יִדְבַּר בּוֹא יָבֹא עִתָּה נִלְכֶה שָׁם אוֹלֵי יִגִּיד לָנוּ אֶת דְּרָכֵינוּ אֲשֶׁר הִלְכְנוּ עָלֶיךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל לְנַעֲרוֹ וְהִנֵּה נִלְךָ וּמָה נִבְיָא לְאִישׁ כִּי הִלְחָם אֲזַל מִכְּלִינוּ וַתְּשׁוּרָה אִין לְהִבְיָא לְאִישׁ הָאֶל־לֵהִים מָה אֲתָנוּ: וַיִּסֹּף הַנַּעֲרָ לְעֲנוֹת אֶת שָׁאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה נִמְצָא בְּיַדִּי רֵבַע שְׁקָל כֶּסֶף וְנִתְתִּי לְאִישׁ הָאֶל־לֵהִים וְהִגִּיד לָנוּ אֶת דְּרָכֵינוּ: לְפָנִים | בִּישְׂרָאֵל כֹּה אָמַר הָאִישׁ בְּלִכְתּוֹ לְדְרוּשׁ אֶל־לֵהִים לָכוּ וּנִלְכֶה עַד הָרָאָה כִּי לִנְבִיָא הַיּוֹם יִקְרָא לְפָנִים הָרָאָה: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל לְנַעֲרוֹ טוֹב דְּבָרְךָ לָכֵה | נִלְכֶה וַיִּלְכוּ אֶל הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר שָׁם אִישׁ הָאֶל־לֵהִים: הִמָּה עָלִים בְּמַעֲלָה הָעִיר וְהִמָּה מָצְאוּ נְעוּרוֹת יִצְאוֹת לְשֹׂאֵב מַיִם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְהֵן הִישׁ בְּזֶה הָרָאָה: וַתַּעֲנִינָה אוֹתָם וַתֹּאמְרָנָה יֵשׁ הִנֵּה לְפָנֶיךָ מֵהָר | עִתָּה כִּי הַיּוֹם בָּא לְעִיר כִּי זָבַח הַיּוֹם לָעָם בְּבַמָּה: כְּבֹאֲכֶם הָעִיר כֶּן תִּמְצְאוּן אֹתוֹ בְּטָרֶם יַעֲלֶה הַבְּמִתָּה לְאֹכֵל כִּי לֹא יֹאכֵל הָעָם עַד בָּאוּ כִּי הוּא יִבְרָךְ הַזָּבַח אַחֲרֵי כֶן יֹאכְלוּ הַקְּרָאִים וְעִתָּה עָלוּ כִּי אֹתוֹ כְּהִיּוֹם תִּמְצְאוּן אֹתוֹ: וַיַּעֲלוּ הָעִיר הִמָּה בָּאִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וְהִנֵּה שְׁמוּאֵל יֵצֵא לְקִרְאָתָם לְעֹלוֹת הַבָּמָה: שְׁמוּאֵל ט:א-יד

And there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor. And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a young man, and handsome; and there was not among the people of Israel a more handsome person than he; from his shoulders upwards he was higher than any of the people. - And the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with you, and arise, go seek the donkeys. - And he passed through Mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not; - then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and there they were not; and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not. And when they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant, who was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father cease to care for the donkeys, and become anxious about us. And he said to him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of G-d, and he is an honorable man; all that he says comes surely to pass; now let us go there; perhaps he can tell us our way that we should go. Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our utensils, and there is not a present to bring to the man of G-d; what do we have? And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here in my hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver; that will I give to the man of G-d, to tell us our way. - Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of G-d, thus he spoke, Come, and let us go to the seer; for he who is now called a prophet was formerly called a seer. Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went to the city where the man of G-d was. And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young girls going out to draw water, and said to them, Is the seer here? And they answered them, and said, He is; behold,

he is before you; make haste now, for he came today to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people today in the high place; As soon as you come to the city, you shall find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat; for the people will not eat until he comes, because he blesses the sacrifice; and afterwards those who are invited eat. And therefore go up; for about this time you shall find him. And they went up into the city; and when they came into the city, behold, Samuel came out towards them, on his way up to the high place. **Samuel I 9:1-14**

B.

וְד' גָּלָה אֶת אֲזֵן שְׁמוּאֵל יוֹם אֶחָד לְפָנָי בּוֹא שְׂאוּל לְאמֹר: כָּעַת | מִחֵר אֲשַׁלַּח אֵלָיְךָ אִישׁ מֵאֶרֶץ בְּנִימֵן וּמִשְׁחָתוֹ לְנָגִיד עַל עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת עַמִּי מִיַּד פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי רָאִיתִי אֶת עַמִּי כִּי בָאָה צַעֲקוֹתוֹ אֵלָי: וּשְׁמוּאֵל רָאָה אֶת שְׂאוּל וְד' עָנָהוּ הִנֵּה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתִּי אֵלָיְךָ זֶה יַעֲצֹר בְּעַמִּי: וַיִּגַּשׁ שְׂאוּל אֶת שְׁמוּאֵל בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׁעַר וַיֹּאמֶר הֲגִידָה נָא לִי אֵי זֶה בֵּית הָרֶאָה: וַיַּעַן שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת שְׂאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנֹכִי הָרֶאָה עָלָה לְפָנָי הַבֶּמֶה וְאֶכְלֶתֶם עַמִּי הַיּוֹם וְשַׁלַּחְתִּיךָ בַּבֶּקֶר וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר בְּלִבְכֶךָ אֲגִיד לְךָ: וְלֹאֲתַנּוֹת הָאֲבֹדוֹת לְךָ הַיּוֹם שְׁלֹשֶׁת הַיָּמִים אֵל תִּשָּׂם אֶת לִבְךָ לָהֶם כִּי נִמְצְאוּ וְלָמִי כָּל חֲמֹדֵת יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲלוֹא לְךָ וְלִכְלֵל בֵּית אָבִיךָ: וַיַּעַן שְׂאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלוֹא בֶן יְמִינִי אֲנֹכִי מִקִּטְנֵי שְׁבֹטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּמִשְׁפַּחְתִּי הַצְּעֵרָה מִכָּל מִשְׁפָּחוֹת שְׁבֹטֵי בְנֵימֵן וְלָמָּה דִּבַּרְתָּ אֵלַי כֹּדֶבֶר הַזֶּה: וַיִּקַּח שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת שְׂאוּל וְאֶת נַעֲרוֹ וַיְבִיֵאֵם לְשִׁכְתָּהּ וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם מְקוֹם בְּרֹאשׁ הַקְּרוּאִים וְהֵמָּה כְּשֹׁלְשִׁים אִישׁ: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל לְטֹבַח תִּנְּה אֶת הַמִּנְּהָ אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְךָ אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתִּי אֵלָיְךָ שִׁים אֹתָהּ עִמָּךְ: וַיֵּרָם הַטֹּבַח אֶת הַשּׁוֹק וְהַעֲלִיָּה וַיִּשָּׂם | לְפָנָי שְׂאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה הַנֶּשֶׂאָר שִׁים לְפָנָיְךָ אֲכַל כִּי לְמוֹעֵד שְׁמוֹר לְךָ לְאמֹר הֵעָם | קָרַאתִי וַיֹּאכַל שְׂאוּל עִם שְׁמוּאֵל בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא: שְׁמוּאֵל א ט:טו-כד

And the L-rd had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be captain over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me. And when Samuel saw Saul, the L-rd said to him, Behold the man about whom I spoke to you! This same man shall reign over My people. Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray you, where the seer's house is. And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer; go up before me to the high place; for you shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let you go, and will tell you all that is in your heart. And as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, set not your mind on them; for they have been found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you, and on all your father's house? And Saul answered and said, Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak so to me? - And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them to the dining chamber, and made them sit at the head of the table among those who were invited, who were about thirty persons. And Samuel said to the cook, Bring the portion which I gave you, of which I said to you, Set it by you. - And the cook took up the thigh, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. - And Samuel said, Behold that which was left is set before you, and eat; for to this time has it been kept for you, since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul ate with Samuel that day. **Samuel I 9:15-24**

C.

וַיֵּרְדוּ מִהַבֶּמֶה הָעִיר וַיִּדְבֹּר עִם שְׂאוּל עַל-הַגָּג: וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ וַיְהִי כַּעֲלוֹת הַשַּׁחַר וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל שְׂאוּל הַגָּגָה לְאמֹר קוּמָה וְאֲשַׁלַּחְךָ וַיִּקָּם שְׂאוּל וַיֵּצְאוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם הוּא וּשְׁמוּאֵל הַחוּצָה: הֵמָּה יוֹרְדִים בַּקֶּצֶה הָעִיר וּשְׁמוּאֵל אָמַר אֶל שְׂאוּל לִנְעַר וַיַּעֲבֹר לְפָנָיו וַיַּעֲבֹר וְאֹתָהּ עִמָּד כַּיּוֹם וְאֲשַׁמִּיעֶךָ אֶת דְּבַר אֲ-לֹהִים: שְׁמוּאֵל א ט:כז-כז

And when they came down from the high place to the city, Samuel talked with Saul on the top of the house. - And they arose early; and it came to pass about daybreak, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Arise, that I may send you away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, out of doors. And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, and he passed on, but stand you still a while, that I may tell you the word of G-d. **Samuel I 9:25-27**

D.

וַיִּקַּח שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת פֶּךָ הַשֶּׁמֶן וַיִּצַק עַל רֹאשׁוֹ וַיִּשְׁקָהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלוֹא כִּי מִשְׁחָךְ ד' עַל נַחֲלָתוֹ לְנִגְדִי: בְּלִכְתֹּךְ הַיּוֹם מֵעַמְדֵי וּמִצָּאֵת שְׁנֵי אַנְשִׁים עִם קְבֵרַת רַחֵל בְּנִימָן בְּצֹלְצַח וְאָמְרוּ אֵלֶיךָ נִמְצְאוּ הָאֲתָנוֹת אֲשֶׁר הִלַּכְתָּ לְבַקֵּשׁ וְהִנֵּה נָטַשׁ אָבִיךָ אֶת דְּבָרֵי הָאֲתָנוֹת וְדָאָג לָכֶם לֵאמֹר מָה אַעֲשֶׂה לְבָנִי: וְחִלַּפְתָּ מִשֵּׁם וְהִלָּאָה וּבָאָתָּ עַד אֵלוֹן תְּבוֹר וּמִצָּאוּךְ שֵׁם שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים עֲלִים אֵל הָאֱ-לֹהִים בַּיִת אֵל אֶחָד נִשְׂא | שְׁלֹשָׁה גְדִיִּים וְאֶחָד נִשְׂא שְׁלֹשֶׁת כִּכְרוֹת לֶחֶם וְאֶחָד נִשְׂא נֶבֶל יִיז: וְשִׂאֵלוֹ לֵךְ לְשָׁלוֹ וְנָתַנּוּ לָךְ שְׁתֵּי לֶחֶם וְלִקְחָתָּ מִיָּדָם: אַחֵר כֵּן תָּבוֹא גְבַעַת הָאֱ-לֹהִים אֲשֶׁר שָׁם נִצְבִי פְלִשְׁתִּים וַיְהִי כַבָּאָךְ שֵׁם הָעִיר וּפְגַעַתָּ חֶבֶל נְבִיאִים יְרֵדִים מֵהַבְּמָה וּלְפָנֵיהֶם נֶבֶל וְתֵף וְחִלִּיל וְכַנּוּר וְהִמָּה מִתְנַבְּאִים: וְצִלַּחַה עֲלֶיךָ רוּחַ ד' וְהִתְנַבִּיתָ עִמָּם וְנִהְפַכְתָּ לְאִישׁ אַחֵר: וְהָיָה כִּי תִבְאֵנָה הָאֲתָנוֹת הָאֵלֶּה לֵךְ עֲשֵׂה לָךְ אֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא יָדְךָ כִּי הָאֱ-לֹהִים עִמָּךְ: וַיְרִדְתָּ לְפָנַי הַגִּלְגָל וְהִנֵּה אָנֹכִי יָרַד אֵלֶיךָ לְהַעֲלוֹת עִלּוֹת לְזִבְחַ זְבָחֵי שְׁלָמִים שְׁבַעַת יָמִים תּוֹחֵל עַד בּוֹאֵי אֵלֶיךָ וְהוֹדַעְתִּי לָךְ אֵת אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה: וְהָיָה כִּהִפְנָתוֹ שְׁכַמוֹ לְלַכְתָּ מֵעַם שְׁמוּאֵל וַיְהִפֶּךְ לוֹ אֱ-לֹהִים לִב אַחֵר וַיָּבֹאוּ כָּל הָאֲתָנוֹת הָאֵלֶּה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא: שְׁמוּאֵל א יא-ט

Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the L-rd has anointed you to be captain over His inheritance? - When you part from me today, then you shall find two men by Rachel's sepulcher in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; - and they will say to you, The donkeys which you went to seek have been found; and, behold, your father has ceased to care about the donkeys, and has become anxious about you, saying, What shall I do about my son? Then shall you go on forward from there, and you shall come to the oak of Tabor, and there shall you meet three men going up to G-d to Beth-El, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine; And they will greet you, and give you two loaves of bread; which you shall receive from their hands. - After that you shall come to the hill of G-d, where the garrisons of the Philistines are; and it shall come to pass, when you have come there to the city, that you shall meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a lute, and a tambourine, and a pipe, and a lyre, before them; and they shall prophesy; And the spirit of the L-rd will come upon you, and you shall prophesy with them, and shall be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs have come to you, that you do as occasion serves you; for G-d is with you. And you shall go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down to you, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings; seven days shall you remain, till I come to you, and show you what you shall do. And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, G-d gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. **Samuel I 10:1-9**

E.

וַיִּצְעַק שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת הָעָם אֵל ד' הַמִּצְפָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר | אֵל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כֹּה אָמַר ד' אֱ-לֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אָנֹכִי הָעֲלִיתִי אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם וְאַצִּיל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וּמִיַּד כָּל הַמַּמְלָכוֹת הַלְּחָצִים אֶתְכֶם: וְאַתֶּם הַיּוֹם מְאַסְתֶּם אֶת אֱ-לֹהֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר הוּא מוֹשִׁיעַ לָכֶם מִכָּל רְעוּתֵיכֶם וְצָרַתֵיכֶם וְתִאמְרוּ לוֹ כִּי מֶלֶךְ תִּשְׁמַע עֲלֵינוּ וְעַתָּה הִתִּיצְבוּ לְפָנַי ד' לְשִׁבְטֵיכֶם וּלְאֵלֵיכֶם: וַיִּקְרַב שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת כָּל שְׁבֵטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּלְכַּד שְׁבֵט בְּנִימָן: וַיִּקְרַב אֶת שְׁבֵט בְּנִימָן לְמִשְׁפַּחְתּוֹ וְתִלְכַּד מִשְׁפַּחַת הַמְטָרִי וַיִּלְכַּד שְׁאוּל בֶּן קִישׁ וַיְבַקְשׁוּהוּ וְלֹא נִמְצָא:

וַיִּשְׁאָלוּ עוֹד בְּד' הֲבָא עוֹד הַלֵּם אִישׁ וַיֹּאמֶר ד' הִנֵּה הוּא נֹחֵבֵא אֶל הַכְּלִים: וַיִּרְצוּ וַיִּקְחֵהוּ מִשֵּׁם וַיִּתְיַצַּב בְּתוֹךְ הָעָם וַיִּגְבֶּה מִכָּל הָעָם מִשְׁכָּמוֹ וּמַעְלָה: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל כָּל הָעָם הֲרֵאִיתֶם אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בּוֹ ד' כִּי אֵין כָּמֹהוּ בְּכָל הָעָם וַיִּרְעוּ כָּל הָעָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ יְחִי הַמֶּלֶךְ: וַיִּדְבֵּר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל הָעָם אֵת מִשְׁפַּט הַמְּלָכָה וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּסֵפֶר וַיִּנַּח לִפְנֵי ד' וַיִּשְׁלַח שְׁמוּאֵל אֵת כָּל הָעָם אִישׁ לְבֵיתוֹ: וְגַם שְׂאוּל הִלֵּךְ לְבֵיתוֹ גְּבַעְתָּהּ וַיִּלְכוּ עִמּוֹ הַחִיל אֲשֶׁר נָגַע אֶל-לֵהִים בְּלִבָּם: וּבְנֵי בְלִיעֵל אָמְרוּ מַה יִּשְׁעֵנוּ זֶה וַיִּכְזְרוּ וְלֹא הֵבִיאוּ לוֹ מִנְחָה וַיְהִי כַמְחָרִישׁ: שְׁמוּאֵל יִיז-כֹּז

And Samuel called the people together to the L-rd to Mizpah; And said to the people of Israel, Thus said the L-rd G-d of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians, and from the hand of all kingdoms, and from those who oppressed you; And you have this day rejected your G-d, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, Set a king over us. And therefore present yourselves before the L-rd by your tribes, and by your thousands. And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was picked. When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was picked, and Saul the son of Kish was picked; and when they sought him, he could not be found. Therefore they inquired of the L-rd further, Did the man come here? And the L-rd answered, Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage. And they ran and fetched him there; and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders upwards. And Samuel said to all the people, See you him whom the L-rd has chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, Long live the king! Then Samuel told the people the rules of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the L-rd. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. And Saul also went home to Geba; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts G-d had touched. But some worthless men (*Benei Belieal* - sons of Belial) said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace. **Samuel I 10:17-27**

## II. The First of Saul's Victories

### A.

וַיַּעַל נָחַשׁ הָעַמּוֹנִי וַיַּחֲזֵן עַל יְבִישׁ גִּלְעָד וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל אַנְשֵׁי יְבִישׁ אֶל נָחַשׁ כָּרַת לָנוּ בְרִית וְנַעֲבֹדָךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם נָחַשׁ הָעַמּוֹנִי בְּזֹאת אֶכְרַת לָכֶם בְּנִקּוֹר לָכֶם כָּל עֵין יְמִין וְשִׁמְתִּיהָ חֲרָפָה עַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו זְקַנִּי יְבִישׁ הֲרָף לָנוּ שְׁבַעַת יָמִים וְנִשְׁלַחָה מְלָאכִים בְּכָל גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאִם אֵין מוֹשִׁיעַ אֲתָנוּ וַיִּצְאָנוּ אֵלֶיךָ: וַיָּבֹאוּ הַמְּלָאכִים גְּבַעַת שְׂאוּל וַיִּדְבְּרוּ הַדְּבָרִים בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם וַיִּשְׁאוּ כָּל הָעָם אֵת קוֹלָם וַיִּכְּבוּ: וְהִנֵּה שְׂאוּל בָּא אַחֲרֵי הַבְּקָר מִן הַשָּׂדֶה וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאוּל מַה לָּעֵם כִּי יִכְּבוּ וַיִּסְפְּרוּ לוֹ אֵת דְּבָרֵי אַנְשֵׁי יְבִישׁ: וַתִּצְלַח רוּחַ אֶל-לֵהִים עַל שְׂאוּל כְּשִׁמְעוֹ אֵת הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיַּחֲר אָפוֹ מְאֹד: וַיִּקַּח צֶמֶד בְּקָר וַיִּנְתַּחֲהוּ וַיִּשְׁלַח בְּכָל גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּיַד הַמְּלָאכִים | לֵאמֹר אֲשֶׁר אֵינָנוּ יִצֵּא אַחֲרֵי שְׂאוּל וְאַחֲרֵי שְׁמוּאֵל כֹּה יַעֲשֶׂה לְבַקְרוֹ וַיִּפֹּל פַּחַד ד' עַל הָעָם וַיִּצְאוּ כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד: וַיִּפְקְדֵם בְּבִזְק וַיְהִיו בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף וְאִישׁ יְהוּדָה שְׁלֹשִׁים אֶלֶף: וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְמְלָאכִים הַבָּאִים כֹּה תֹאמְרוּן לְאִישׁ יְבִישׁ גִּלְעָד מִחֹר תִּהְיֶה לָכֶם תְּשׁוּעָה כָּחֵם הַשָּׁמַשׁ וַיָּבֹאוּ הַמְּלָאכִים וַיִּגִּדּוּ לְאַנְשֵׁי יְבִישׁ וַיִּשְׁמְחוּ: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אַנְשֵׁי יְבִישׁ מִחֹר נִצָּא אֲלֵיכֶם וַעֲשִׂיתֶם לָנוּ כְּכָל הַטוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם: וַיְהִי מִמְּחֻרַת וַיִּשֶׁם שְׂאוּל אֵת הָעָם שְׁלֹשָׁה רְאשִׁים וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּתוֹךְ הַמְּחֻנָּה בְּאִשְׁמֹרֶת הַבְּקָר וַיִּכּוּ אֵת עֲמוּן עַד חַם הַיּוֹם וַיְהִי הַנִּשְׂאָרִים וַיִּפְצוּ וְלֹא נִשְׂאָרוּ בָם שְׁנַיִם יָחַד: שְׁמוּאֵל אִי-א-יֵא

Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabesh-Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you. And Nahash the

Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel. And the elders of Jabesh said to him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers to all the borders of Israel; and then, if there is no man to save us, we will come out to you. - Then came the messengers to Geba of Saul, and told the news to the ears of the people; and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept. And, behold, Saul came after the herd from the field; and Saul said, What ails the people that they weep? And they told him the news about the men of Jabesh. And the spirit of G-d came upon Saul when he heard those news, and his anger was greatly kindled. And he took a yoke of oxen, and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Who ever comes not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen. - And the fear of the L-rd fell on the people, and they came out with one consent. And when he counted them in Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. And they said to the messengers who came, Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-Gilead, Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have help. And the messengers came and reported it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. Therefore the men of Jabesh said, Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you shall do with us all that seems good in your eyes. And it was so on the next day that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day; and it came to pass, that those who remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together. **Samuel I 11:1-11**

B.

וַיֹּאמֶר הָעָם אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל מִי הָאִמֵּר שְׂאוּל יִמְלֶךְ עָלֵינוּ תָּנוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים וּנְמִיתָם: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאוּל לֹא יוּמָת אִישׁ בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי הַיּוֹם עָשָׂה ד' תְּשׁוּעָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל הָעָם לְכוּ וְנִלְכְּהוּ הַגִּלְגָּל וּנְחַדֵּשׁ שָׁם הַמְּלוּכָה: וַיֵּלְכוּ כָל הָעָם הַגִּלְגָּל וַיִּמְלְכוּ שָׁם אֶת שְׂאוּל לְפָנָיו ד' בַּגִּלְגָּל וַיִּזְבְּחוּ שָׁם זִבְחִים שְׁלָמִים לְפָנָיו ד' וַיִּשְׂמַח שָׁם שְׂאוּל וְכָל אַנְשֵׁי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד מָאֵד: שְׁמוּאֵל א יא-יב-טו

And the people said to Samuel, Who is he who said, Shall Saul reign over us? Bring the men, that we may put them to death. - And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day; for today the L-rd has wrought salvation in Israel. - Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there. - And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the L-rd in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the L-rd; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly. **Samuel I 11:12-15**

### III. Shmuel's Farewell Address

A.

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל הִנֵּה שָׁמַעְתִּי בְקִלְכֶם לְכָל אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם לִי וְאִמְלִיךְ עָלֵיכֶם מֶלֶךְ: וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה הַמֶּלֶךְ | מִתְהַלֵּךְ לְפָנֵיכֶם וְאֲנִי זִקְנָתִי וְשִׁבְתִּי וּבְנֵי הַנֶּם אִתְּכֶם וְאֲנִי הִתְהַלַּכְתִּי לְפָנֵיכֶם מִנְעָרֵי עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: הַנְּנִי עֲנוּ בִי נֶגֶד ד' וְנִגַּד מְשִׁיחוֹ אֶת שׁוֹר | מִי לְקַחְתִּי וְחַמּוֹר מִי לְקַחְתִּי וְאֵת מִי עָשִׂקְתִּי אֶת מִי רִצּוֹתֵי וּמִי מִי לְקַחְתִּי כֹפֵר וְאֵעֲלִים עֵינָיו בּוֹ וְאֲשִׁיב לָכֶם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא עָשִׂקְתָּנוּ וְלֹא רִצּוֹתָנוּ וְלֹא לְקַחְתָּ מִיֵּד אִישׁ מְאוּמָה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם עַד ד' בְּכֶם וְעַד מְשִׁיחוֹ הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי לֹא מִצַּאתֶם בְּיָדֵי מְאוּמָה וַיֹּאמֶר עַד: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל הָעָם ד' אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת מֹשֶׁה וְאֵת אֶהֱרֹן וְאֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלָה אֶת אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: וְעַתָּה הִתְיַצְבוּ וְאֲשַׁפְטָה אֶתְכֶם לְפָנָיו ד' אֶת כָּל צְדָקוֹת ד' אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶתְכֶם וְאֵת אֲבֹתֵיכֶם: כַּאֲשֶׁר בָּא יַעֲקֹב מִצְרַיִם וַיִּזְעַקוּ אֲבֹתֵיכֶם אֶל ד' וַיִּשְׁלַח ד' אֶת מֹשֶׁה וְאֵת אֶהֱרֹן וַיּוֹצִיאוּ אֶת אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּשְׁכְּחוּ הַזֶּה: וַיִּשְׁכְּחוּ אֶת ד' אֶל-לֵהִיָּהֶם וַיִּמְכְּרוּ אֶתְּם בְּיַד סִסְרָא שׁוֹר צָבָא חֲצוֹר וּבְיַד

פִּלְשֵׁתִים וּבִיד מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב וַיִּלְחַמוּ בָם: וַיִּזְעֻקוּ אֶל ד' וַיֹּאמְרוּ חָטָאנוּ כִּי עֲזַבְנוּ אֶת ד' וַנַּעֲבֹד אֶת-הַבְּעָלִים וְאֶת הָעִשְׁתָּרוֹת וְעַתָּה הִצִּילְנוּ מִיַּד אֲיִבֵינוּ וְנַעֲבֹדְךָ: וַיִּשְׁלַח ד' אֶת יִרְבֵּעֵל וְאֶת בְּדָן וְאֶת יִפְתָּח וְאֶת שְׁמוּאֵל וַיִּצַּל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד אֲיִבֵיכֶם מִסָּבִיב וַתִּשְׁבוּ בְּטוֹחַ: וַתִּרְאוּ כִּי נָחַשׁ מֶלֶךְ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן בָּא עֲלֵיכֶם וַתֹּאמְרוּ לִי לֹא כִּי מֶלֶךְ יִמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ וְד' א-לֹהֵיכֶם מִלְּכָכֶם: וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בַּחֲרַתֶּם אֲשֶׁר שְׁאַלְתֶּם וְהִנֵּה נָתַן ד' עֲלֵיכֶם מֶלֶךְ: אִם תִּירְאוּ אֶת ד' וְעַבַדְתֶּם אֹתוֹ וּשְׁמַעְתֶּם בְּקוֹלוֹ וְלֹא תִמְרוּ אֶת פִּי ד' וְהִיתֶם גַּם אִתָּם וְגַם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר מֶלֶךְ עֲלֵיכֶם אַחֵר ד' א-לֹהֵיכֶם: וְאִם לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ בְּקוֹל ד' וּמִרִיתֶם אֶת פִּי ד' וְהִיתָה יַד ד' בְּכֶם וּבְכַבְתִּיכֶם: גַּם עַתָּה הִתִּיצְבוּ וּרְאוּ אֶת הַדָּבָר הַגָּדוֹל הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר ד' עֹשֶׂה לְעֵינֵיכֶם: הֲלוֹא קָצִיר חֲטִים הַיּוֹם אֶקְרָא אֶל ד' וַיִּתֵּן קִלּוֹת וּמָטָר וַדְּעוּ וּרְאוּ כִּי רַעַתְכֶם רַבָּה אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם בְּעֵינֵי ד' לְשֹׂאוֹל לְכֶם מֶלֶךְ: וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל ד' וַיִּתֵּן ד' קִלְת וּמָטָר בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וַיִּירָא כָּל הָעָם מְאֹד אֶת ד' וְאֶת שְׁמוּאֵל: וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל הָעָם אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל הַתְּפִלֵּל בְּעַד עֲבֹדֶיךָ אֶל ד' א-לֹהֶיךָ וְאֵל נַמּוֹת כִּי יִסְפְּנוּ עַל כָּל חַטֹּאתֵינוּ רָעָה לְשֹׂאֵל לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל הָעָם אֵל תִּירְאוּ אִתָּם עָשִׂיתֶם אֶת כָּל הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת אֲךָ אֵל תִּסּוּרוּ מֵאַחֲרֵי ד' וְעַבַדְתֶּם אֶת ד' בְּכָל לְבַבְכֶם: וְלֹא תִסּוּרוּ כִּי | אַחֲרֵי הַתְּהוּ אֲשֶׁר לֹא יוֹעִילוּ וְלֹא יִצִּילוּ כִּי תִהְיוּ הֵמָּה: כִּי לֹא יִטֵּשׁ ד' אֶת עַמּוֹ בְּעַבּוֹר שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל כִּי הוּאֵל ד' לַעֲשׂוֹת אִתְּכֶם לוֹ לְעַם: גַּם אֲנֹכִי חָלִילָה לִּי מִחַטָּא לְד' מִחֲדָל לְהַתְּפִלֵּל בְּעַדְכֶם וְהוֹרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם בְּדֶרֶךְ הַטּוֹבָה וְהִישְׁרָה: אֲךָ | יִרְאוּ אֶת ד' וְעַבַדְתֶּם אֹתוֹ בְּאַמֶּת בְּכָל לְבַבְכֶם כִּי רְאוּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר הַגָּדֵל עִמָּכֶם: וְאִם הִרַע תִּרְעוּ גַם אִתָּם גַּם מִלְּכָכֶם תִּסְפּוּ: שְׁמוּאֵל יב-א-כה

And Samuel said to all Israel, Behold, I have listened to your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you. And now, behold, the king walks before you; and I am old and grayheaded; - and, behold, my sons are with you; - and I have walked before you from my childhood to this day. - Behold, here I am; testify against me before the L-rd, and before His anointed; whose ox have I taken? or whose donkey have I taken? or whom have I defrauded (not paid their wages)? whom have I oppressed (prevailed upon them to give me a free gift)? or from whose hand have I received any bribe to blind my eyes with (a redemption payment instead of punishment)? and I will restore it to you. And they said, You have not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither have you taken anything from any man's hand. And he said to them, The L-rd is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand. And they (He) answered, He is (I am) witness. And Samuel said to the people, It is the L-rd that advanced Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers out of the land of Egypt. And therefore stand still, that I may plead with you before the L-rd concerning all the righteous acts of the L-rd, which He did to you and to your fathers. When Jacob came to Egypt, and your fathers cried to the L-rd, then the L-rd sent Moses and Aaron, who brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them live in this place. And when they forgot the L-rd their G-d, he sold them to the hand of Sisera, captain of the army of Hazor, and to the hand of the Philistines, and to the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them. And they cried to the L-rd, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the L-rd, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth; but now save us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You. And the L-rd sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you from the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived safe. And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, No; but a king shall reign over us; when the L-rd your G-d was your king. And therefore behold the king whom you have chosen, and whom you have desired! and, behold, the L-rd has set a king over you. - If you will fear the L-rd, and serve Him, and obey His voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the L-rd, and if shall both you and also the king who reigns over you follow the L-rd your G-d; But if you will not obey the voice of the L-rd, but rebel against the commandment of the L-rd, then shall the hand of the L-rd be against you, as it was against your fathers. - And therefore stand and see this great thing, which the L-rd will do before your eyes. Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call to the L-rd, and

He shall send thunder and rain; that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the L-rd, in asking for a king. So Samuel called to the L-rd; and the L-rd sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the L-rd and Samuel. And all the people said to Samuel, Pray for your servants to the L-rd your G-d, that we die not; for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for a king. And Samuel said to the people, Fear not; you have done all this wickedness; yet turn not aside from following the L-rd, but serve the L-rd with all your heart; And turn not aside; for then should you go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. For the L-rd will not forsake His people for His great name's sake; because it has pleased the L-rd to make you His people. Moreover as for me, G-d forbid that I should sin against the L-rd in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way;. Only fear the L-rd, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; and consider how great things He has done for you. But if you shall still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king. **Samuel I 12:1-25**

#### IV. Saul Confronts the Philistines

##### A.

בֶּן שָׁנָה שָׂאוּל בְּמָלְכוֹ וּשְׁתֵּי שָׁנַיִם מָלַךְ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּבְחַר לוֹ שָׂאוּל שְׁלֹשֶׁת אֲלָפִים מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִיו עִם שָׂאוּל אֲלָפִים בְּמִכְמָשׁ וּבְהָר בֵּית אֵל וְאֶלְיָהוּ הָיוּ עִם יוֹנָתָן בְּגִבְעַת בְּנֵימִן וַיִּתֵּר הָעָם שְׁלַח אִישׁ לְאַהֲלָיו: וַיֵּד יוֹנָתָן אֶת נֹצִיב פְּלִשְׁתִּים אֲשֶׁר בְּגִבְעָה וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים וּשְׂאוּל תִּקַּע בְּשׁוֹפָר בְּכָל הָאָרֶץ לֵאמֹר יִשְׁמְעוּ הָעִבְרִים: וְכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל שָׁמְעוּ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה שָׂאוּל אֶת נֹצִיב פְּלִשְׁתִּים וְגַם נִבְאֵשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּפִלְשְׁתִּים וַיִּצְעֲקוּ הָעָם אַחֲרֵי שָׂאוּל הַגִּלְגָּל: וּפְלִשְׁתִּים נֶאֱסָפוּ | לְהִלָּחֵם עִם יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁלֹשִׁים אֶלְפֵי רֶכֶב וּשְׁשֵׁת אֲלָפִים פָּרָשִׁים וְעַם כַּחֲוֹל אֲשֶׁר עַל שְׂפַת הַיָּם לְרֹב וַיַּעֲלוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמִכְמָשׁ קְדַמַּת בֵּית אֹנָן: וַאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל רָאוּ כִּי צָר לוֹ כִּי נִגַּשׁ הָעָם וַיִּתְחַבְּאוּ הָעָם בְּמַעְרוֹת וּבְחַוְחֻחִים וּבְסַלְעִים וּבְצֻרֹת וּבְכַרְוֹת: וְעִבְרִים עָבְרוּ אֶת הַיַּרְדֵּן אַרְצָה גֵד וְגִלְעָד וּשְׂאוּל עֹדְדָנוּ בְּגִלְגָּל וְכָל הָעָם חָרְדוּ אַחֲרָיו: וַיִּוָּחַל | שְׁבַע יָמִים לְמוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר שָׁמוּאֵל וְלֹא בָּא שָׁמוּאֵל הַגִּלְגָּל וַיִּפֶץ הָעָם מֵעֵלְיוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאוּל הֲגִשׁוּ אֵלַי הַעֲלֵה וְהַשְׁלֵמִים וַיַּעַל הַעֲלֵה: וַיְהִי כִכְלָתוֹ לְהַעֲלוֹת הַעֲלֵה וְהִנֵּה שָׁמוּאֵל בָּא וַיִּצֵּא שָׂאוּל לִקְרָאתוֹ לְבָרְכוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁמוּאֵל מַה עָשִׂיתָ וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאוּל כִּי רָאִיתִי כִּי נִפֶץ הָעָם מֵעֵלַי וְאַתָּה לֹא בָאתָ לְמוֹעֵד הַיָּמִים וּפְלִשְׁתִּים נֶאֱסָפוּ מִכְמָשׁ: וַאֲמַר עֲתָה יֵרְדוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים אֵלַי הַגִּלְגָּל וּפְנֵי ד' לֹא חִלִּיתִי וְאַתָּה אֶפְקֵה וְאַעֲלֶה הַעֲלֵה: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁמוּאֵל אֵל שָׂאוּל נִסְכַּלְתָּ לֹא שָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת מִצְוֹת ד' אֶלֶּי—לְהִיָּד אֲשֶׁר צִוָּךְ כִּי עֲתָה הִכִּין ד' אֶת מַמְלַכְתְּךָ אֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד עוֹלָם: וְעֲתָה מַמְלַכְתְּךָ לֹא תִקּוּם בְּקֶשׁ ד' לוֹ אִישׁ כָּלִבּוֹ וַיִּצְוֶהוּ ד' לְנִגִּיד עַל עַמּוֹ כִּי לֹא שָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר צִוָּךְ ד': וַיִּקֶּם שָׁמוּאֵל וַיַּעַל מִן הַגִּלְגָּל גִּבְעַת בְּנֵימִן וַיִּפְקֹד שָׂאוּל אֶת הָעָם הַנִּמְצָאִים עַמּוֹ כֶּשֶׁשׁ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ: וּשְׂאוּל וַיּוֹנָתָן בָּנוּ וְהָעָם הַנִּמְצָא עִמָּם יֹשְׁבִים בְּגִבְעָה בְּנֵימִן וּפְלִשְׁתִּים חָנוּ בְּמִכְמָשׁ: וַיִּצֵּא הַמֶּשְׁחִית מִמְּחִנֵּה פְּלִשְׁתִּים שְׁלֹשָׁה רָאשִׁים הָרָאשׁ אֶחָד יִפְנֶה אֶל דֶּרֶךְ עַפְרָה אֵל אַרְצָה שׁוּעֵל: וְהָרָאשׁ אֶחָד יִפְנֶה דֶּרֶךְ בֵּית חֲרוֹן וְהָרָאשׁ אֶחָד יִפְנֶה דֶּרֶךְ הַגִּבּוֹל הַנִּשְׁקָף עַל גִּי הַצְּבָעִים הַמִּדְבָּרָה: וְחָרַשׁ לֹא יִמָּצֵא בְּכָל אַרְצָה יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי אָמְרוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים פֶּן יַעֲשׂוּ הָעִבְרִים חָרֵב אוֹ חֲנִית: וַיֵּרְדוּ כָל יִשְׂרָאֵל הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים לְלַטּוֹשׁ אִישׁ אֶת מַחְרָשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת אֶתוֹ וְאֶת קַרְדֵּמוֹ וְאֶת מַחְרָשְׁתּוֹ: וְהִיְתָה הַפְּצִירָה פִּים לְמַחְרָשׁ וּלְאֵתִים וּלְשֵׁלשׁ קִלְשׁוֹן וְלַהֲקַרְדָּמִים וְלַהֲצִיב הַדְּרָבָן: וְהָיָה בַיּוֹם מְלַחֲמָה וְלֹא נִמָּצָא חָרֵב וְחֲנִית בְּיַד כָּל הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אֶת שָׂאוּל וְאֶת יוֹנָתָן וְתַמְצָא לְשָׂאוּל וְלִיוֹנָתָן בָּנוּ: וַיִּצֵּא מִצֵּב פְּלִשְׁתִּים אֵל מַעְבַּר מִכְמָשׁ: שְׁמוּאֵל א יג-א-כג

Saul reigned one year; and (when) he had reigned two years over Israel, Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel; of which two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in Mount Beth-El, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Geba of Benjamin; and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. And Jonathan struck the garrison (governor) of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the shofar throughout all the land,



saying, Let the Hebrews hear. And all Israel heard say that Saul had struck a garrison (governor) of the Philistines, and that Israel also had become odious to the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal. - And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude; and they came up, and camped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-Aven. When the men of Israel saw that they were in distress, for the people were hard pressed, then the people hid themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in fortresses, and in pits. And some of the Hebrews went over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. - As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. And he remained seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed; but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him. And Saul said, Bring here a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. And it came to pass, that as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. And Samuel said, What have you done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you came not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the L-rd; I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the L-rd your G-d, which He commanded you; for now the L-rd would have established your kingdom upon Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue; the L-rd has sought him a man after His own heart, and the L-rd has commanded him to be captain over His people, because you have not kept that which the L-rd commanded you. - And Samuel arose, and went up from Gilgal to Geba of Benjamin. And Saul counted the people who were present with him, about six hundred men. - And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people who were present with them, remained in Geba of Benjamin; but the Philistines encamped in Michmash. And raiders came from the camp of the Philistines in three companies; one company turned to the way that leads to Ophrah, to the land of Shual; And another company turned the way to Beth-Horon; and another company turned to the way of the border that looks to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness. And there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel; for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make themselves swords or spears; But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his plowshare, and his spade, and his ax, and his mattock. And there was a charge (makeshift sharpener for those who didn't wish to go to the Philistines) for filing the mattocks, and the spades, and the three pronged forks, and the axes, and for setting the goads. So it came to pass in the day of the battle, that there was no sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan; but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found. And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash. **Samuel I 13:1-23**

B.

וַיְהִי הַיּוֹם וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה בֶּן שָׂאוּל אֶל הַנֶּעֱר נִשְׂא כָלְיוּ לָכֶּה וְנִעְבְּרָה אֶל מִצֵּב פְּלִשְׁתִּים אֲשֶׁר מֵעֵבֶר הַקָּלָי וּלְאָבִיו לֹא הָגִיד: וְשָׂאוּל יוֹשֵׁב בַּקֶּצֶה הַגְּבֻעָה תַחַת הָרִמּוֹן אֲשֶׁר בְּמִגְרוֹן וְהָעָם אֲשֶׁר עִמּוֹ כָּשׂוּ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ: וְאַחֲזִיהָ בֶן אַחֲטוּב אַחִי אֵיכָבוֹד | בֶּן פִּינְחָס בֶּן עֲלִי כֹהֵן | ד' בְּשָׁלוֹ נִשְׂא אֶפֶוד וְהָעָם לֹא יָדַע כִּי הִלָּךְ יוֹנָתָן: וּבֵין הַמַּעֲבְרוֹת אֲשֶׁר בַּקֶּשׁ יוֹנָתָן לַעֲבֹר עַל מִצֵּב פְּלִשְׁתִּים שֶׁן הַסְּלַע מֵהָעֵבֶר מִזֶּה וְשֶׁן הַסְּלַע מֵהָעֵבֶר מִזֶּה וְשֶׁן הָאֶחָד בּוֹצֵץ וְשֶׁן הָאֶחָד סִנֵּה: הַשֶּׁן הָאֶחָד מִצּוֹק מִצְפוֹן מוֹל מְכַמֵּשׁ וְהָאֶחָד מִנְּגֵב מוֹל גְּבֻעָה: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל הַנֶּעֱר | נִשְׂא כָלְיוּ לָכֶּה וְנִעְבְּרָה אֶל מִצֵּב הָעֲרָלִים הָאֵלֶּה אוֹלֵי יַעֲשֶׂה ד' לָנוּ כִּי אֵין לָד' מַעֲצוֹר לְהוֹשִׁיעַ בְּרַב אוֹ בְּמַעֲט: וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ נִשְׂא כָלְיוּ עֲשֵׂה כָּל אֲשֶׁר בְּלִבְכֶם נִטָּה לָךְ הַנְּנִי עִמָּךְ כְּלִבְכֶם: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הִנֵּה אֲנִיחֶנּוּ עֲבָרִים אֶל הָאֲנָשִׁים וְנִגְלִינוּ אֲלֵיהֶם: אִם כֹּה יֹאמְרוּ אֵלֵינוּ דָמוֹ עַד הַגִּיעֵנוּ אֲלֵיכֶם וְעַמְדָנוּ תַחַתֵינוּ וְלֹא נַעֲלֶה אֲלֵיהֶם: וְאִם כֹּה יֹאמְרוּ עָלוּ עָלֵינוּ וְעָלֵנוּ כִּי נָתַם ד'

בִּידְנֹו וְזֶה לְנֹו הָאוֹת: וַיִּגְלוּ שְׂנֵיהֶם אֶל מִצֵּב פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיֹּאמְרוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים הִנֵּה עֹבְרִים יֵצְאִים מִן הַחֲרִים אֲשֶׁר הִתְחַבְּאוּ שָׁם: וַיַּעֲנוּ אַנְשֵׁי הַמִּצֵּבָה אֶת יוֹנָתָן | וְאֵת נִשְׂא כְלָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ עָלוּ אֵלֵינוּ וְנֹודִיעָה אֶתְכֶם דָּבָר וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹנָתָן אֶל נִשְׂא כְלָיו עֲלֵה אַחֲרַי כִּי נִתְּנָם ד' בְּיַד יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיַּעַל יוֹנָתָן עַל יָדָיו וְעַל רִגְלָיו וְנִשְׂא כְלָיו אַחֲרָיו וַיִּפְלוּ לִפְנֵי יוֹנָתָן וְנִשְׂא כְלָיו מְמוֹתֵת אַחֲרָיו: וַתְּהִי הַמִּכָּה הָרֵאשֹׁנָה אֲשֶׁר הִכָּה יוֹנָתָן וְנִשְׂא כְלָיו כְּעֹשְׂרִים אִישׁ כְּבַחְצֵי מַעֲנָה צָמַד שָׂדֵה: וַתְּהִי חֲרָדָה בַּמַּחֲנֶה בְּשָׂדֵה וּבְכָל הָעָם הַמִּצֵּב וְהַמְּשֻׁחֵת חֲרָדוֹ גַּם הֵמָּה וַתִּרְגְּזוּ הָאָרְץ וַתְּהִי לְחֲרָדָת א--לֵהִים: וַיִּרְאוּ הַצִּפִּים לְשֹׂאוֹל בְּגִבְעַת בְּנִימָן וְהִנֵּה הֶהְמוֹן נִמוֹג וַיִּלֶּךְ וְהֵלֵם: וַיֹּאמֶר שֹׂאוֹל לְעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ פָּקְדוֹ נָא וַרְאוּ מִי הֵלֶךְ מֵעַמָּנוּ וַיִּפְקְדוּ וְהִנֵּה אֵין יוֹנָתָן וְנִשְׂא כְלָיו: וַיֹּאמֶר שֹׂאוֹל לְאַחִיָּה הַגִּישָׁה אֲרוֹן הָא--לֵהִים כִּי הִיָּה אֲרוֹן הָא--לֵהִים בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיְהִי עַד דָּבָר שֹׂאוֹל אֶל הַכֹּהֵן וְהֶהְמוֹן אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחֲנֶה פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיִּלֶּךְ הַלּוֹךְ וְרַב וַיֹּאמֶר שֹׂאוֹל אֶל הַכֹּהֵן אֶסְף יָדָךְ: וַיִּזְעַק שֹׂאוֹל וְכָל הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ וַיָּבֹאוּ עַד הַמְּלַחְמָה וְהִנֵּה הִיָּתָה חֲרִב אִישׁ בְּרַעְהוֹ מִהוּמָה גְדוֹלָה מְאֹד: וְהָעֹבְרִים הָיוּ לְפְלִשְׁתִּים כְּאֶתְמוֹל שְׁלֹשׁוֹם אֲשֶׁר עָלוּ עִמָּם בַּמַּחֲנֶה סָבִיב וְגַם הֵמָּה לְהִיּוֹת עִם יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר עִם שֹׂאוֹל וַיּוֹנָתָן: וְכָל אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמִּתְחַבְּאִים בְּהָר אֶפְרַיִם שָׁמְעוּ כִּי נָסוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיִּדְבְּקוּ גַם הֵמָּה אַחֲרֵיהֶם בַּמְּלַחְמָה: וַיּוֹשַׁע ד' בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהַמְּלַחְמָה עָבְרָה אֶת בֵּית אָוֶן: שְׂמוּאֵל א יד:א-כג

And it came to pass one (on that) day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, Come, and let us go over to the [side of the] Philistines' garrison (encampment), that is on the other side [of Geba]. But he told not his father. And Saul remained on the far side of Geba under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron; and the people who were with him were about six hundred men; And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the L-rd's priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone. - And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison (encampment), there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side; and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. One point rose up abruptly on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba. - And Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, Come, and let us go over to the garrison (encampment) of these uncircumcised; it may be that the L-rd will perform a deed for us; for there is no restraint upon the L-rd to save by many or by few. And his armor bearer said to him, Do all that is in your heart; turn you; behold, I am with you according to your heart. Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over to these men, and we will reveal ourselves to them. If they say thus to us, Remain until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up to them.. But if they say thus, Come up to us; then we will go up; for the L-rd has delivered them into our hand; and this shall be a sign to us. - And both of them revealed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines; and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth from the holes where they have hidden themselves. And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armor bearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will show you something. And Jonathan said to his armor bearer, Come up after me; for the L-rd has delivered them into the hand of Israel. And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and on his feet, and his armor bearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan; and his armor bearer slew after him. And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armor bearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were half a furrow, which a yoke of oxen might plow. - And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people; the garrison, and the raiders, they also trembled, and the earth quaked; so it was a very great trembling. And the watchmen of Saul in Geba of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went hither and thither. Then said Saul to the people who were with him, Count now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had counted, behold, Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there. And Saul said to Ahiah, Bring here the ark of G-d. For the ark of G-d was at that time with the people of Israel. And it came to pass, while

Saul talked to the priest, that the noise that was in the camp of the Philistines went on and increased; and Saul said to the priest, Withdraw your hand. And Saul and all the people who were with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle; and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great confusion. Moreover the Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp from the surrounding country, they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in Mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, they also pursued hard after them in the battle. So the L-rd saved Israel that day; and the battle passed beyond Beth-Aven. **Samuel I 14:1-23**

C.

וְשָׂאוּל לְכַד הַמְּלוּכָה עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּלָּחֶם סָבִיב | בְּכָל אִיבֵיו בְּמוֹאָב | וּבְבִנְי עֲמוֹן וּבְאֲדוֹם וּבְמִלְכֵי צוּבָה  
וּבְפִלְשְׁתִּים וּבְכָל אֲשֶׁר יִפְנֶה יִרְשִׁיעַ: וַיַּעַשׂ חֵיל וַיִּךְ אֶת עֲמֶלֶק וַיִּצַּל אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּד שְׂסֵהוּ: וַיְהִיו בְּנֵי  
שָׂאוּל יוֹנָתָן וַיִּשׁוּי וּמִלְכֵי-שׁוּעַ וְשֵׁם שְׁתֵּי בָנָתָיו שֵׁם הַבְּכִירָה מֶרַב וְשֵׁם הַקְּטָנָה מִיכָל: וְשֵׁם אִשְׁתּוֹ  
שָׂאוּל אַחִינֹעַם בַּת אַחִימֶעֶץ וְשֵׁם שָׂר צִבְאוֹ אַבְיָנָר בֶּן נֵר דוֹד שָׂאוּל: וְקִישׁ אָבִי שָׂאוּל וְנֵר אָבִי אַבְיָנָר בֶּן  
אַבְיָאֵל: וַתְּהִי הַמְּלָחָמָה חֲזָקָה עַל פְּלִשְׁתִּים כָּל יְמֵי שָׂאוּל וְרָאָה שָׂאוּל כָּל אִישׁ גִּבּוֹר וְכָל בֶּן חֵיל  
וַיֹּאסֶפְהוּ אֵלָיו: שְׂמוּאֵל אִידִּמְז-נב

So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the Ammonites, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines; and wherever he turned himself, he did them mischief. And he gathered an army, and defeated the Amalekites, and saved Israel from the hands of those who plundered them. And the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua; and the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal; And 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. And Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel. And there was hard fighting against the Philistines all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any strong man, or any brave man, he took him to him. **Samuel I 14:47-52**

#### IV. Amalek and the Downfall of Saul

A.

זְכוֹר אֶת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְךָ עֲמֶלֶק בְּדַרְךָ בְּצֵאתְכֶם מִמִּצְרָיִם: אֲשֶׁר קָרַךְ בְּדַרְךָ וַיִּזְנֹב בְּךָ כָּל הַנְּחָשָׁלִים אַחֲרֶיךָ  
וְאִתָּה עֵינָךְ וַיִּגַע וְלֹא יָרָא אֶ-לֵהִים: וְהָיָה בְּהִנִּיתָ ד' אֶ-לֵהֶיךָ | לְךָ מִכָּל אִיבֵיךָ מִסָּבִיב בְּאַרְצְךָ אֲשֶׁר ד'  
אֵלֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ נַחֲלָה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ תִּמְחָה אֶת זְכוֹר עֲמֶלֶק מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם לֹא תִשְׁכַּח: דְּבָרִים כֹּה־יִזְט

Remember what Amalek did to you by the way, when you came forth out of Egypt; How he met you by the way, and struck at your rear, all who were feeble behind you, when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear G-d. Therefore it shall be, when the L-rd your G-d has given you rest from all your enemies around, in the land which the L-rd your G-d gives you for an inheritance to possess, that you shall blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget it. **Deuteronomy 25:17-19**

B.

רבי יהודה אומר: שלש מצות נצטוו ישראל בכניסתן לארץ: להעמיד להם מלך, ולהכריח זרעו של עמלק, ולבנות להם בית הבחירה. סנהדרין כ:

R. Yehudah said: Three commandments were given to Israel when they entered the land: [i] to appoint a king, [ii] to cut off the seed of Amalek, and [iii] to build themselves the chosen house. **Sanhedrin 20b**

C.

(1) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל שָׁאוּל אֲתִי שְׁלַח ד' לְמִשְׁחָךְ לְמִלְךְךָ עַל עַמּוֹ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַתָּה שְׁמַע לְקוֹל דְּבַר־יְהוָה: כֹּה אָמַר ד' ז'-בָּאוֹת פְּקֻדֹתַי אֶת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה עִמָּלֶךְ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר שָׁם לוֹ בְּדַרְךְ בְּעֵלְתוֹ מִמִּצְרַיִם: עַתָּה לָךְ וְהַכִּיתָה אֶת עִמָּלֶךְ וְהַחַרְמְתָם אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר לוֹ וְלֹא תַחֲמַל עָלָיו וְהִמַּתָּה מֵאִישׁ עַד אִשָּׁה מֵעַלִּיל וְעַד יוֹנֵק מִשׁוּר וְעַד שֶׁה מִגְּמֹל וְעַד חֲמוּר: וַיִּשְׁמַע שָׁאוּל אֶת הָעָם וַיִּפְקְדֵם בְּטֹלָאִים מֵאֵתִים אֶלְפֵי רִגְלֵי וְעֵשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים אֶת אִישׁ יְהוּדָה: וַיָּבֵא שָׁאוּל עַד עִיר עִמָּלֶךְ וַיִּרֶב בְּנַחֲל: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל אֶל הַקִּינִי לְכוּ סֵרוּ רֵדוּ מִתּוֹךְ עִמָּלֶקִי פֶן אֶסְפְּךָ עִמּוֹ וְאַתָּה עֲשִׂיתָה חֶסֶד עִם כָּל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֵלּוֹתָם מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּסֵּר קִינִי מִתּוֹךְ עִמָּלֶק: וַיֵּךְ שָׁאוּל אֶת עִמָּלֶק מִחֻוִּילָה בּוֹאֵךְ שׁוֹר אֲשֶׁר עַל פְּנֵי מִצְרַיִם: וַיִּתְּפֹשׂ אֶת אֲגַג מֶלֶךְ עִמָּלֶק חַי וְאֵת כָּל הָעָם הַחֲרִים לְפִי חָרֵב: וַיַּחֲמַל שָׁאוּל וְהָעָם עַל אֲגַג וְעַל מֵיטֵב הַצֹּאן וְהַבָּקָר וְהַמְּשֻׁנִים וְעַל הַפָּרִים וְעַל כָּל הַטּוֹב וְלֹא אָבּוּ הַחֲרִימָם וְכָל הַמְּלֹאכָה נִמְבָּזָה וְנִמְסָה אֶתָּה הַחֲרִימוּ: וַיְהִי דְבַר ד' אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל לֵאמֹר: נַחֲמֵתִי כִּי הַמְּלֹכָתִי אֶת שָׁאוּל לְמֶלֶךְ כִּי שָׁב מֵאַחֲרַי וְאֵת דְּבַר־יְהוָה לֹא הִקִּים וַיַּחֲרַל שְׁמוּאֵל וַיִּזְעַק אֶל ד' כָּל הַלַּיְלָה: וַיִּשְׁכַּם שְׁמוּאֵל לְקִרְאת שָׁאוּל בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּגַּד לְשְׁמוּאֵל לֵאמֹר בֵּא שָׁאוּל הַכְּרַמְלָה וְהִנֵּה מְצִיב לוֹ יָד וַיִּסֵּב וַיַּעֲבֹר וַיִּרַד הַגִּלְגָּל: וַיָּבֵא שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל שָׁאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ שָׁאוּל בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה לַד' הַקִּימְתִי אֶת דְּבַר ד': וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל וּמָה קוֹל הַצֹּאן הַזֶּה בְּאֲזְנֵי וְקוֹל הַבָּקָר אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי שֹׁמֵעַ: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל מֵעִמָּלֶקִי הֵבִיאוּם אֲשֶׁר חָמַל הָעָם עַל מֵיטֵב הַצֹּאן וְהַבָּקָר לְמַעַן זָבַח לַד' א--לְהִיךְ וְאֵת הַיּוֹתֵר הַחֲרַמְנוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל שָׁאוּל הֲרָף וְאִגִּידָה לָךְ אֶת אֲשֶׁר דְּבַר ד' אֵלַי הַלַּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ דְּבַר: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל הֲלוֹא אִם קָטָן אַתָּה בְּעֵינַיִךְ רֹאשׁ שְׁבִטִי יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתָּה וַיִּמְשַׁח ד' לְמֶלֶךְ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּשְׁלַח ד' בְּדַרְךְ וַיֹּאמֶר לָךְ וְהַחַרְמְתָה אֶת הַחֲטָאִים אֶת עִמָּלֶךְ וְנִלְחַמְתָּ בוֹ עַד כְּלוֹתָם אֹתָם: וְלָמָּה לֹא שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹל ד' וַתַּעַט אֶל הַשֶּׁלֶל וַתַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי ד': וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתִּי בְּקוֹל ד' וְאֵלַךְ בְּדַרְךְ אֲשֶׁר שְׁלַחְתִּי ד' וְאָבִיָּא אֶת אֲגַג מֶלֶךְ עִמָּלֶךְ וְאֵת עִמָּלֶךְ הַחֲרַמְתִּי: וַיִּקַּח הָעָם מֵהַשֶּׁלֶל צֹאן וּבָקָר רֹאשֵׁית הַחֶרֶם לְזָבַח לַד' א--לְהִיךְ בַּגִּלְגָּל: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל הַחֲפֹץ לַד' בְּעֵלּוֹת וּזְבָחִים כְּשֹׁמֵעַ בְּקוֹל ד' הִנֵּה שְׁמַע מְזָבַח טוֹב לְהַקְשִׁיב מִחֻלָּב אֵילִים: כִּי חֲטָאת קָסָם מְרִי וְאֹן וְתַרְפִּים הַפְּצָר יַעַן מָאֶסְתָּ אֶת דְּבַר ד' וַיִּמְאַסְךָ מִמֶּלֶךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל חֲטָאתִי כִּי עֲבַרְתִּי אֶת פִּי ד' וְאֵת דְּבַר־יְהוָה כִּי יִרְאתִי אֶת הָעָם וְאֲשִׁמַּע בְּקוֹלָם: וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא אֶת חֲטָאתִי וְשׁוּב עִמִּי וְאַשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לַד': וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל שָׁאוּל לֹא אָשׁוּב עִמָּךְ כִּי מָאֶסְתָּה אֶת דְּבַר ד' וַיִּמְאַסְךָ ד' מֵהַיּוֹת מֶלֶךְ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּסֵּב שְׁמוּאֵל לְלֶכֶת וַיַּחֲזֹק בְּכַנֵּף מְעִילוֹ וַיִּקְרַע: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו שְׁמוּאֵל קְרַע ד' אֶת מְמַלְכוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵעַלְיָךְ הַיּוֹם וְנִתְּנָה לְרַעַף הַטּוֹב מִמֶּךָ: וְגַם נִצַּח יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִשְׁקַר וְלֹא יִנָּחַם כִּי לֹא אָדָם הוּא לְהִנָּחַם: וַיֹּאמֶר חֲטָאתִי עַתָּה כִּבְדַנִּי נָא נִגַּד זְקִנִי עִמִּי וְנִגַּד יִשְׂרָאֵל וְשׁוּב עִמִּי וְהַשְׁתַּחֲוִיתִי לַד' א--לְהִיךְ: וַיָּשָׁב שְׁמוּאֵל אַחֲרַי שָׁאוּל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ שָׁאוּל לַד': וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל הַגִּישׁוּ אֵלַי אֶת אֲגַג מֶלֶךְ עִמָּלֶךְ וַיִּלְךְ אֵלָיו אֲגַג מֵעַדְנָת וַיֹּאמֶר אֲגַג אֲכֹן סֵר מֵר הַמּוֹת: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל כֹּאֲשֶׁר שְׁכַלָּה נְשִׁים חֲרָבָךְ כֵּן תִּשְׁכַּל מְנַשִּׁים אִמָּךְ וַיִּשְׁסֹף שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת אֲגַג לְפָנֵי ד' בַּגִּלְגָּל: וַיִּלְךְ שְׁמוּאֵל הַרְמַתָּה וְשָׁאוּל עָלָה אֶל בֵּיתוֹ גִּבְעַת שָׁאוּל: וְלֹא יָסַף שְׁמוּאֵל לְרֹאוֹת אֶת שָׁאוּל עַד יוֹם מוֹתוֹ כִּי הִתְאַבַּל שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל שָׁאוּל וְד' נָחַם כִּי הִמְלִיךְ אֶת שָׁאוּל עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל: שְׁמוּאֵל א טו:א-לד

Samuel also said to Saul, The L-rd sent me to anoint you to be king over His people, over Israel; now therefore listen to the voice of the words of the L-rd. Thus said the L-rd of H-sts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. And go and strike Amalek, and completely destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox, and sheep, camel and donkey. And Saul gathered the people together, and counted them in Telaim (with lambs), two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and

laid wait in (contested) the valley. And Saul said to the Kenites, Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah until you come to Shur, that is over opposite Egypt. And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and completely destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared (took pity on) Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not completely destroy them; but every thing that was despised and worthless, that they destroyed completely. Then came the word of the L-rd to Samuel, saying, I regret that I have set up Saul to be king; for he is turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried to the L-rd all night. And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a monument, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal. And Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said to him, Blessed be you of the L-rd; I have performed the commandment of the L-rd. And Samuel said, What is the meaning then of this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice to the L-rd your G-d; and the rest we have completely destroyed. Then Samuel said to Saul, Stay, and I will tell you what the L-rd has said to me this night. And he said to him, Speak. And Samuel said, When (even if) you were (deem yourself to be) little in your own sight, were you not made the chief of the tribes of Israel, and the L-rd anointed you king over Israel? And the L-rd sent you on a journey, and said, Go and completely destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed. Why then did you not obey the voice of the L-rd, but did fly upon the booty, and did evil in the sight of the L-rd? And Saul said to Samuel, Indeed, I have obeyed the voice of the L-rd, and have gone the way which the L-rd sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have completely destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the booty, sheep and oxen, the best of the devoted property to sacrifice to the L-rd your G-d in Gilgal. And Samuel said, Has the L-rd as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the L-rd? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the L-rd, He has also rejected you from being king. And Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the L-rd, and your words; because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. And therefore, I beg you, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the L-rd. And Samuel said to Saul, I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the L-rd, and the L-rd has rejected you from being king over Israel. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it tore. And Samuel said to him, The L-rd has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the Eternal One of Israel will not lie nor change His mind; for He is not a man, that He should change His mind. Then he said, I have sinned; yet honor me now, I beg you, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the L-rd your G-d. So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the L-rd. Then said Samuel, Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came to him cheerfully. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past. And Samuel said, As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women. And Samuel cut Agag in pieces before the L-rd in Gilgal. Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death; nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul; and the L-rd repented that He had made Saul king over Israel. **Samuel I**

(2) (שמואל א' טו) וירב בנחל, אמר רבי מני: על עסקי נחל. בשעה שאמר לו הקדוש ברוך הוא לשאול (שמואל א' טו) לך והכית את עמלק, אמר: ומה נפש אחת אמרה תורה הבא עגלה ערופה, כל הנפשות הללו על אחת כמה וכמה ואם אדם חטא בהמה מה חטאה? ואם גדולים חטאו קטנים מה חטאו? יצאה בת קול ואמרה לו (קהלת ז) אל תהי צדיק הרבה. ובשעה שאמר לו שאול לדואג (שמואל א' כב) סב אתה ופגע בכהנים, יצאה בת קול ואמרה לו (קהלת ז) אל תרשע הרבה. . . . אמר רב הונא: כבן שנה, שלא טעם טעם חטא. מתקיף לה רב נחמן בר יצחק: ואימא כבן שנה שמלוכלך בטיט ובצואה? אחויאו ליה לרב נחמן סיוטא בחלמיה. אמר: נעניתי לכם עצמות שאול בן קיש. הדר חזא סיוטא בחלמיה. אמר: נעניתי לכם עצמות שאול בן קיש מלך ישראל. אמר רב יהודה אמר שמואל: מפני מה לא נמשכה מלכות בית שאול מפני שלא היה בו שום דופי. דאמר רבי יוחנן משום רבי שמעון בן יהוצדק: אין מעמידין פרנס על הציבור אלא אם כן קופה של שרצים תלויה לו מאחוריו, שאם תזוח דעתו עליו אומרין לו: חזור לאחוריך. אמר רב יהודה אמר רב: מפני מה נענש שאול מפני שמחל על כבודו, שנאמר (שמואל א' י) ובני בליעל אמרו מה ישענו זה ויבזהו ולא הביאו לו מנחה ויהי כמחריש וכתוב (שמואל א' יא) ויעל נחש העמוני ויחן על יבש גלעד וגו'. יומא כב:

“And he strove in the valley.” (Samuel I 15:5) R. Mani said: Because of what happens “in the valley”: When the Holy One, blessed be He, said to Saul (ibid. 3), “Now go and smite Amalek,” [Saul] said: If on account of one person the Torah said: Perform the ceremony of the heifer whose neck is to be broken (Deut. 21:1-9), how much more [ought consideration to be given] to all these persons! And if human beings sinned, what has the cattle committed; and if the adults have sinned, what have the little ones done? A Divine voice came forth and said (Ecc. 7:16): Be not righteous overmuch. And when Saul said to Doeg (Samuel I 22:18): Turn thou and fall upon the priests, a Heavenly voice came forth to say (Ecc. 7:16): Be not overly wicked. “Saul was a year old when he began to reign.” (Samuel I 15:2) R. Huna said: Like an infant of one year, who had not tasted the taste of sin. R. Nahman b. Yitzchak objected to this: Say perhaps: Like an infant of one year old that is filthy with mud and excrement? R. Nahman thereupon was shown a frightening vision in his dream, whereupon he said: I beg your pardon, bones of Saul, son of Kish. But he saw again a frightening vision in his dream, whereupon he said: I beg your pardon, bones of Saul, son of Kish, King in Israel. . . . Rav Yehudah said in the name of Shmuel: Why did the kingdom of Saul not endure? Because no reproach rested on him, for R. Yohanan had said in the name of R. Shimon b. Yehotzadak: One should not appoint any one administrator of a community, unless he carries a basket of reptiles on his back, so that if he became arrogant, one could tell him: Turn around! Rav Yehudah said in the name of Rav: Why was Saul punished? Because he forewent the honor due to himself, as it is said: But certain worthless fellows (sons of Belial) said (Samuel I 10:27), “How shall this man save us? And they despised him and brought him no present. But he was as one that held his peace,” and it is written [immediately following that (Samuel I 11:1)], “Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh-gilead.” **Yoma 22b**