

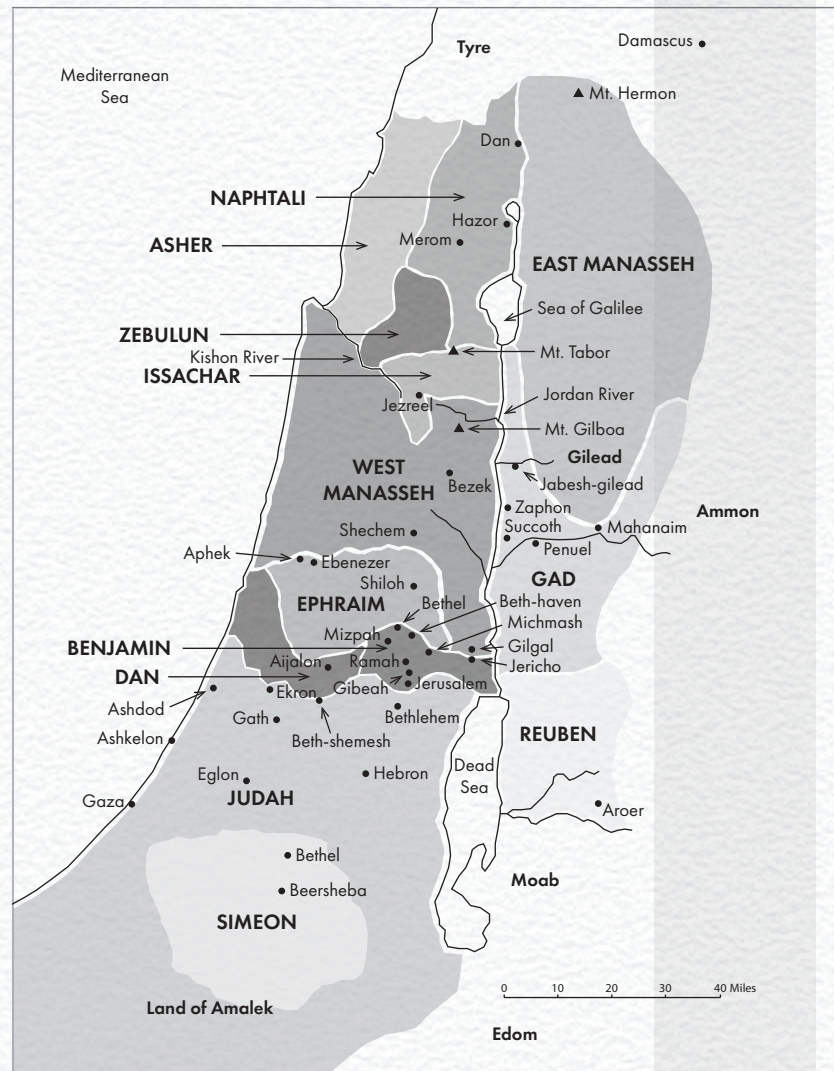
1 Samuel 15

WHEN

- Israel's first king, Saul, was appointed in approximately 1050 B.C.
- These events took place several years after
- Saul became king, probably between 1040-1010 B.C.

WHERE

- The Amalekites lived in the land immediately south of the Israelite's land, between Egypt and the Dead Sea.
- Samuel confronted Saul at Gilgal.



CHARACTERS

- **Samuel** – God's prophet. He was the last significant judge of Israel.
- **Saul** – God selected Saul to be the first king of Israel. He was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- **Agag** – The king of the Amalekites.

OUTLINE

- **GOD COMMANDS SAUL TO DESTROY THE AMALEKITES (15:1-9):**
 - + Samuel told Saul the Lord wanted him to make war on the Amalekites and destroy them. No human or animal was to be left alive.
 - + God was going to punish the Amalekites because they attacked Israel shortly after
 - + God freed them from slavery in Egypt (see Exo 17:8-16; Deu 25:17-19).
 - + Saul gathered an army of 200,000 men at Telaim.
 - + Israel attacked Amalek and defeated them, but Saul decided to keep the strong animals and the king, Agag, alive.
- **GOD PUNISHES SAUL FOR NOT DESTROYING THE AMALEKITES (15:10-31):**
 - + God was angry with Saul and He told Samuel He regretted making Saul king.
 - + Samuel was upset by Saul's failure to keep God's command, and he went to confront him at Gilgal.
 - + Saul greeted Samuel and told him he had successfully completed the Lord's command.
 - + Samuel disagreed and asked why the animals of the Amalekites were still alive.
 - + Saul told him it was because the people wanted to bring them back to sacrifice them to God.
 - + Samuel told Saul God would have been more pleased with obedience than sacrifices.
 - + Saul made some excuses, but eventually admitted his sin.
 - + As punishment, God rejected Saul as king.
 - + Although the kingdom wasn't taken away from him immediately, God was not going to bless him as He had in the past.
 - + As Samuel turned to leave, Saul grabbed the skirt of his robe, and it tore.
 - + "Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you'" (15:28).
- **SAMUEL KILLS AGAG AND PARTS WAYS WITH SAUL (15:32-35):**
 - + Samuel completed the will of the Lord by killing Agag, the king of the Amalekites.
 - + Samuel went to Ramah and Saul went to Gibeah.
 - + Samuel grieved Saul's failure.

APPLICATION

- There are kings and then there is the King of Kings.
- Saul was head over all Israel, but he still answered to God.
- All world leaders answer to God, and they retain their power only by God's permission.
- Rom 13:1 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.
- The most powerful earthly throne is still a seat of submission to the Almighty.