

I Samuel 1-3

Historical Books II
Lecture #3

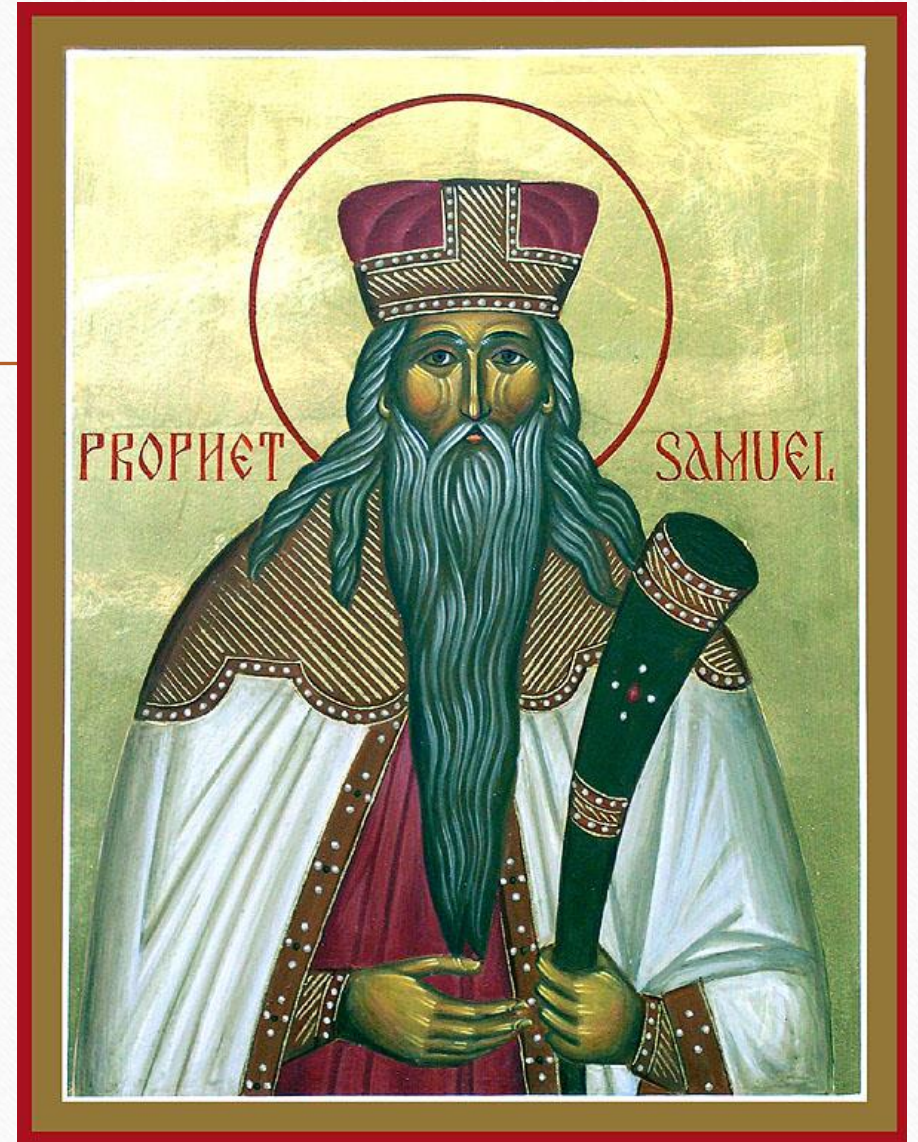
I Samuel

Chapter 12

Samuel's Message

Samuel's "Retirement"

- Here ends the rule of the Judges and begins rule of the Kings.
- Samuel does not fully retire from national service.
 - He is still the great Spiritual leader of the nation.
 - He does seem to relinquish civil or political authority he had as judge.



Samuel's Speech

- Defense of his own ministry and character – vs. 1-5
 - The monarchy did not come because of Samuel's failure.
- Review of Israel's history – vs. 6-12
 - blessing, rebellion, chastening, etc.
- Exhortation to trust and obey God – vs. 13-25
 - Accented by calling on God to send thunder – vs. 17-18
 - It was summer and not a time to expect rain.



I Samuel

Chapter 13

Saul vs. Philistines

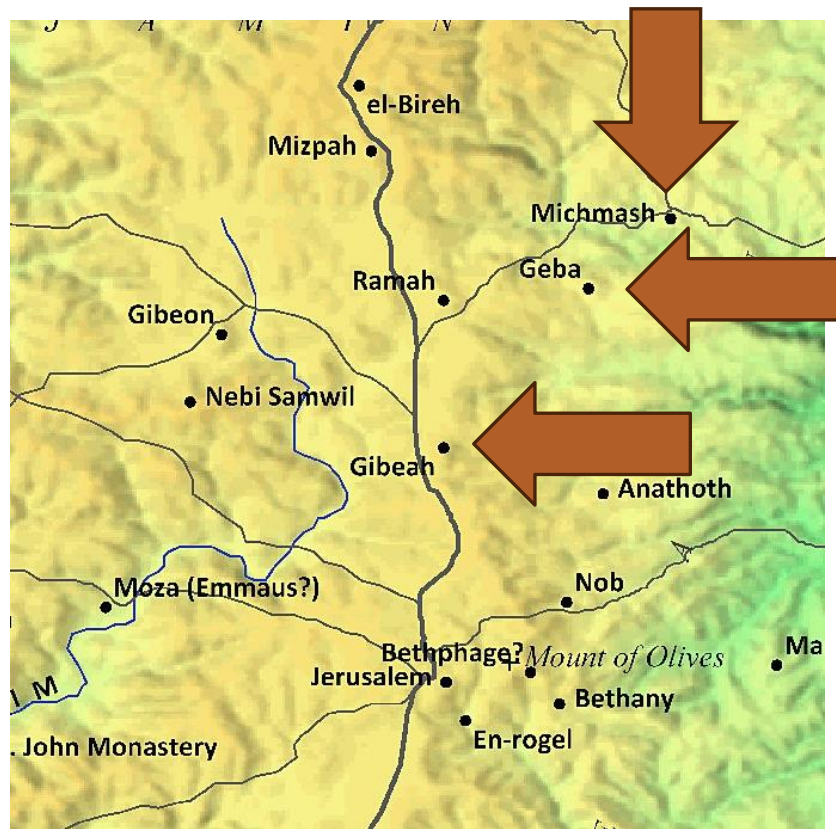
How Long?

- Some critics have imagined an error in vs. 1 but a simple, straightforward reading is sufficient to show their error.
- “Saul reigned one year;” – time marker, he has completed 1 year of rule.
- “and when he had reigned two years over Israel,” – he is in the second year of his reign.
 - Note – Ancient Jews tend to count inclusively.

Military Status

- Why didn't Saul use the 330,000 that fought against Nahash to attack the Philistines?
- Saul has a standing army of 3,000 men, split between himself and Jonathan.
- The Philistines had controlled Israel's access to iron working – vs. 19-22
 - The Israelites are likely fighting with farming tools or crude weapons.
- The Philistines appear to be able to unhindered access to the heart of Israel.

Jonathon's Victory



- Jonathon's troop defeats a Philistine stronghold at Geba.
 - Look how close to Saul's home at Gibeah this is!
- Saul claims the victory and calls Israel to gather for battle at Gilgal.
- The Philistines respond in gathering at Michmash.
 - 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and countless infantry.

Disaster at Gilgal

- There appears to have been a plan in place for Samuel to meet Saul at Gilgal in case of emergency – 10:8
- After seven days of watching his men lose heart and desert, Saul offers sacrifices himself.
- In desperation, Saul turned to himself instead of God or God's prophet.



Saul's First Rejection

- Samuel arrives on the seventh day and confronts Saul for his actions.
- Saul lacked faith and had encroached on the office of priest.
- Vs. 14 – “thy kingdom shall not continue” – he would still have the throne for about 38 more years, but he would not establish a dynasty.



Philistine Maneuvers

- From their central camp at Michmash, the Philistines send out raiding parties.
 - North toward Ophrah
 - West toward Bethhoron
 - East toward Zeboim



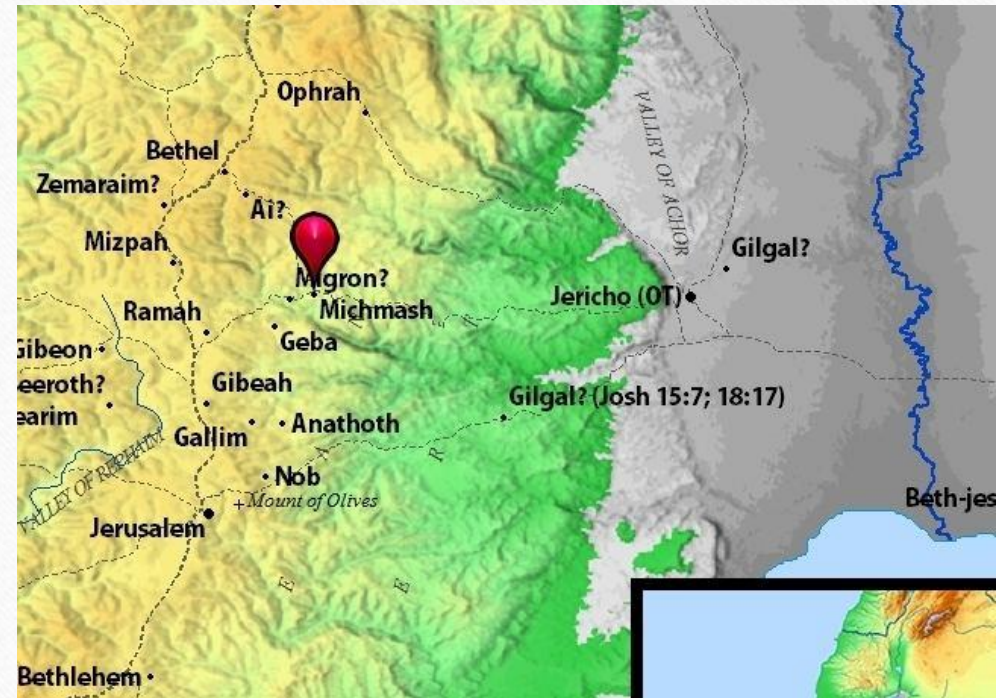
I Samuel

Chapter 14

Jonathan vs. Philistines

Desperate Situation

- Philistines are running unchecked through central Israel.
- Samuel has announced Saul's rejection as king and left.
- Saul has only 600 men left near Migron
 - Others desert or hide.

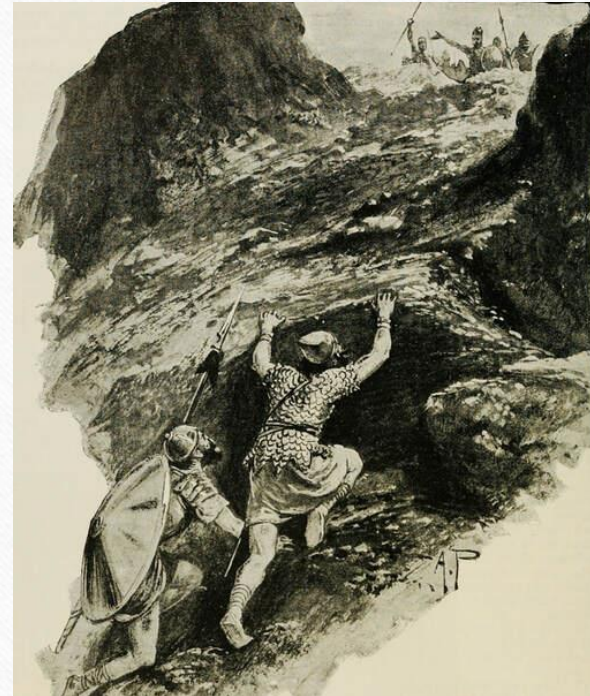


Jonathan's Battlefield



Jonathan's Attack

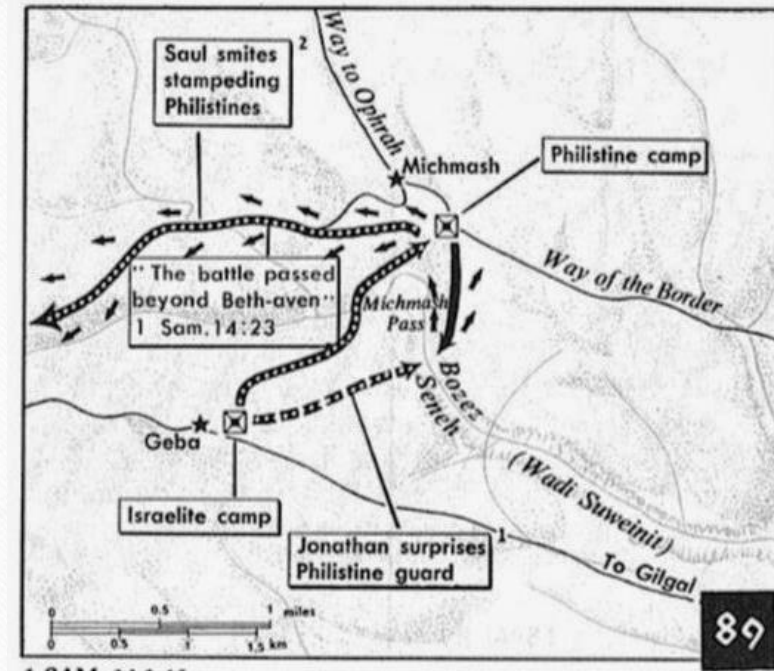
- Jonathan and his armorbearer attack a hilltop fortification.
- The boldness of the attack and an earthquake sent by God sends a panic through the Philistines.
- Saul does nothing.



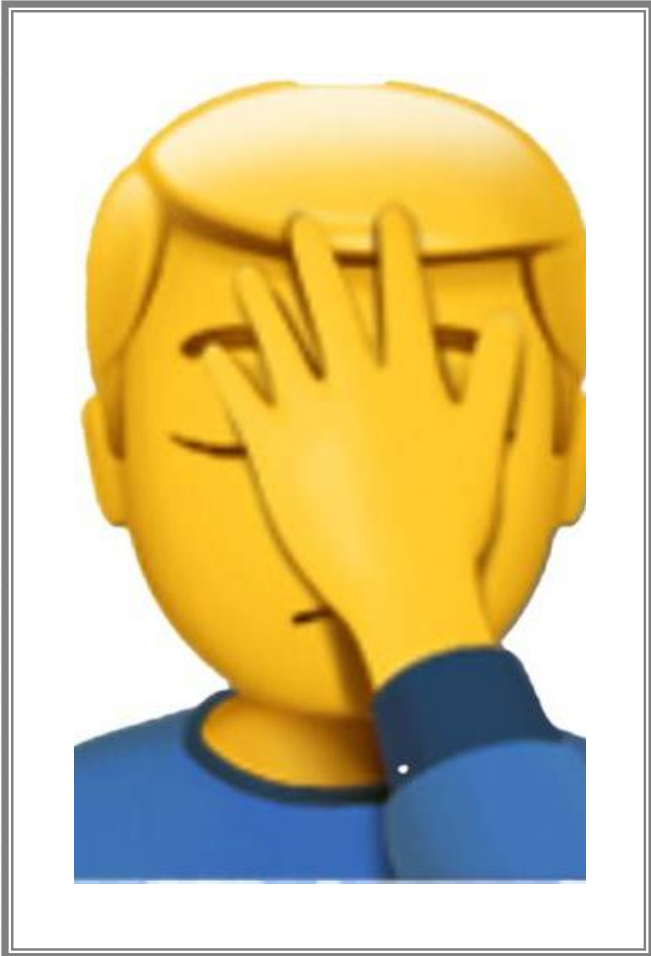
The Battle Ensues

- In the confusion, the Philistines began to attack themselves.
- Israelites come out of hiding and join in the attack.
- Israelite mercenaries turn on the Philistines – vs. 21
- Saul finally joins the battle.
- The Philistines retreat westward.

THE BATTLE OF MICHMASH



1 SAM. 14:1-46

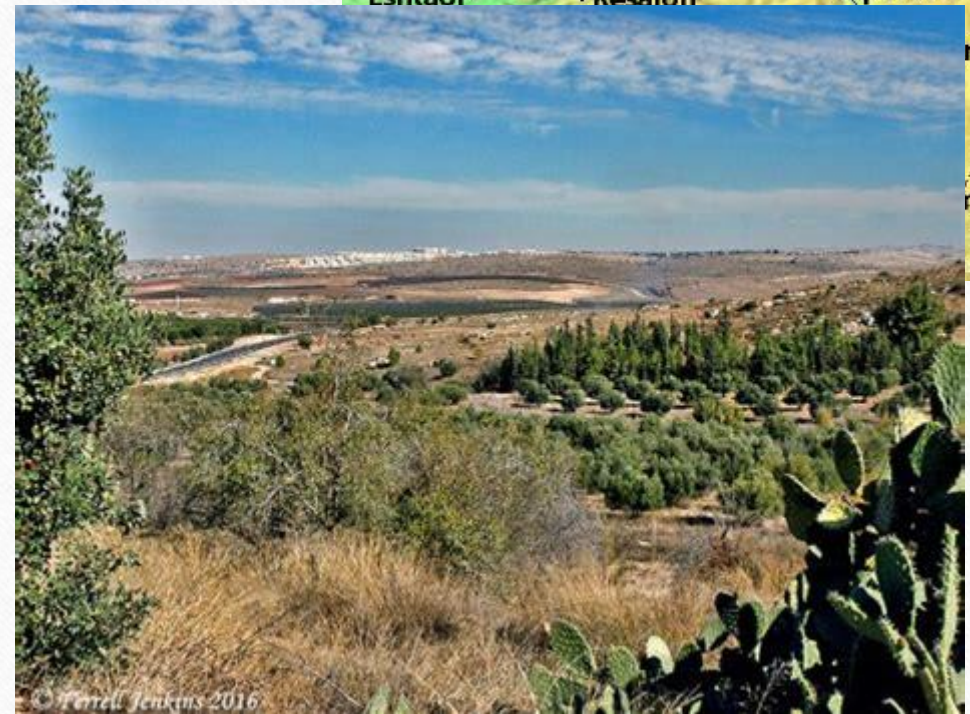
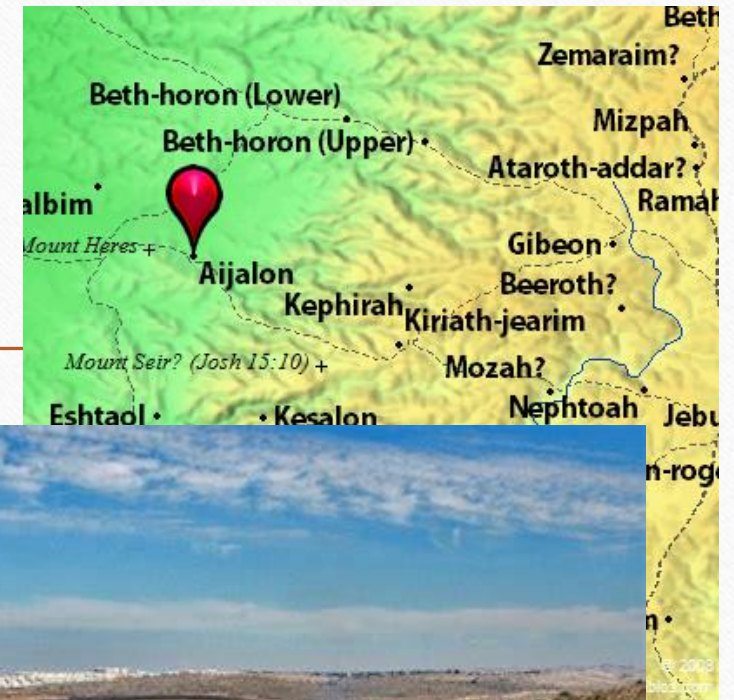


Saul's Stupid Order

- Saul was reluctant to start or join the fight.
- Once he was involved, he ordered the soldiers to press on without stopping to eat or rest.
- Jonathan does not know of this and eats honey.

Sin at Aijalon

- The soldiers are so starved they begin to eat meat raw from the spoils.
 - Clear violation of Law - Leviticus 19:26 and Deuteronomy 12:16
- Saul intervenes and butchers some animals so men could eat correctly.



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Saul vs. Jonathan



- If you thought the day couldn't get worse...
- Saul finally asks for God's direction and get no reply.
- He assumes it's the people fault.
- Lots reveal it was Jonathan.
- He would have killed his son (and the hero of the day) had the people not stopped him.

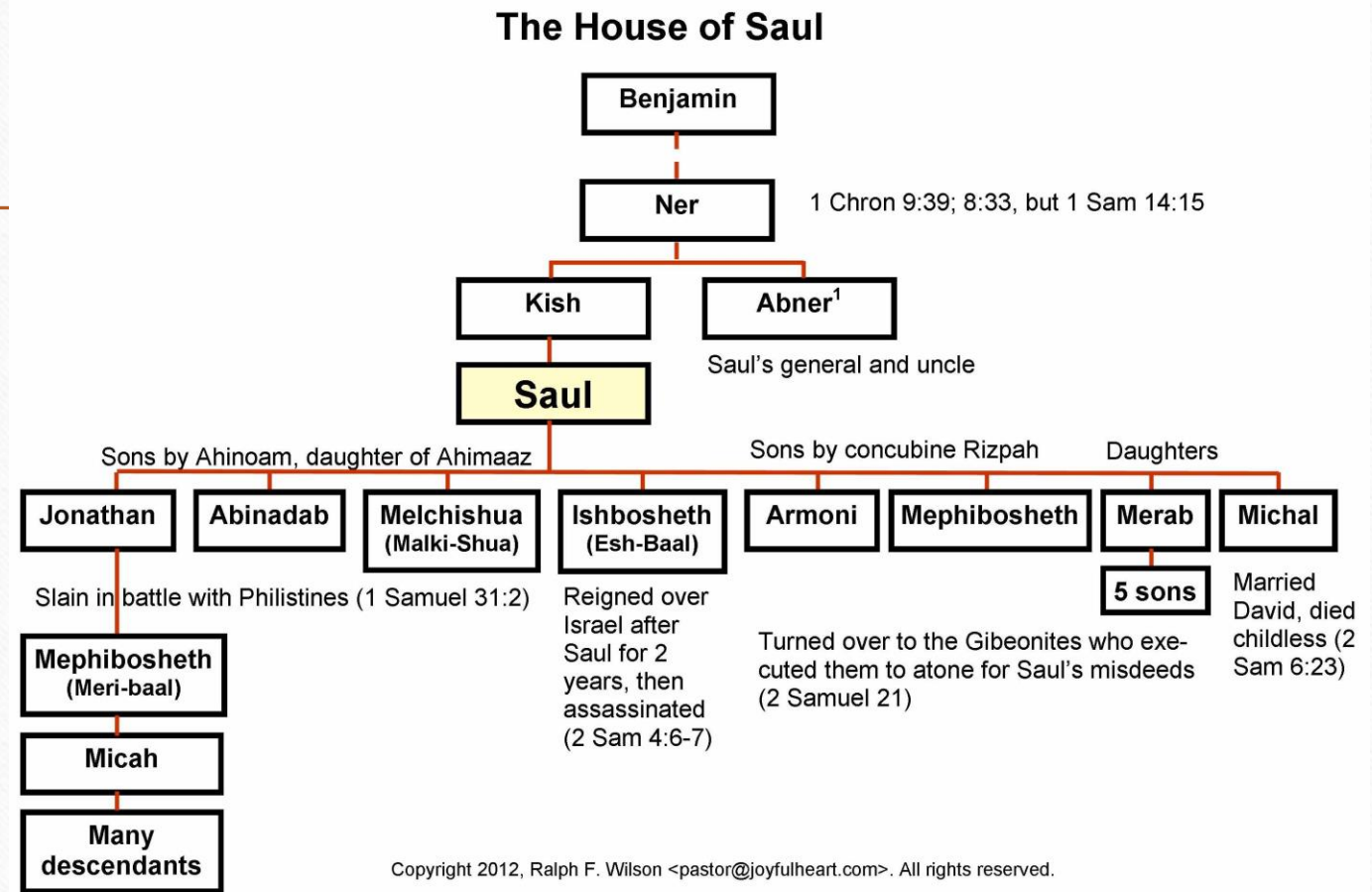
From Victory to Failure

- Saul completely failed as leader.
 - He did not lead the people in battle.
 - He gave rash commands.
 - He failed to properly care for his men.
 - He blamed others.
 - He almost killed his own son.
 - He lost the chance to annihilate his enemy.



Saul's Family

- This overview signals an intermission in the narrative of 15-20 years.



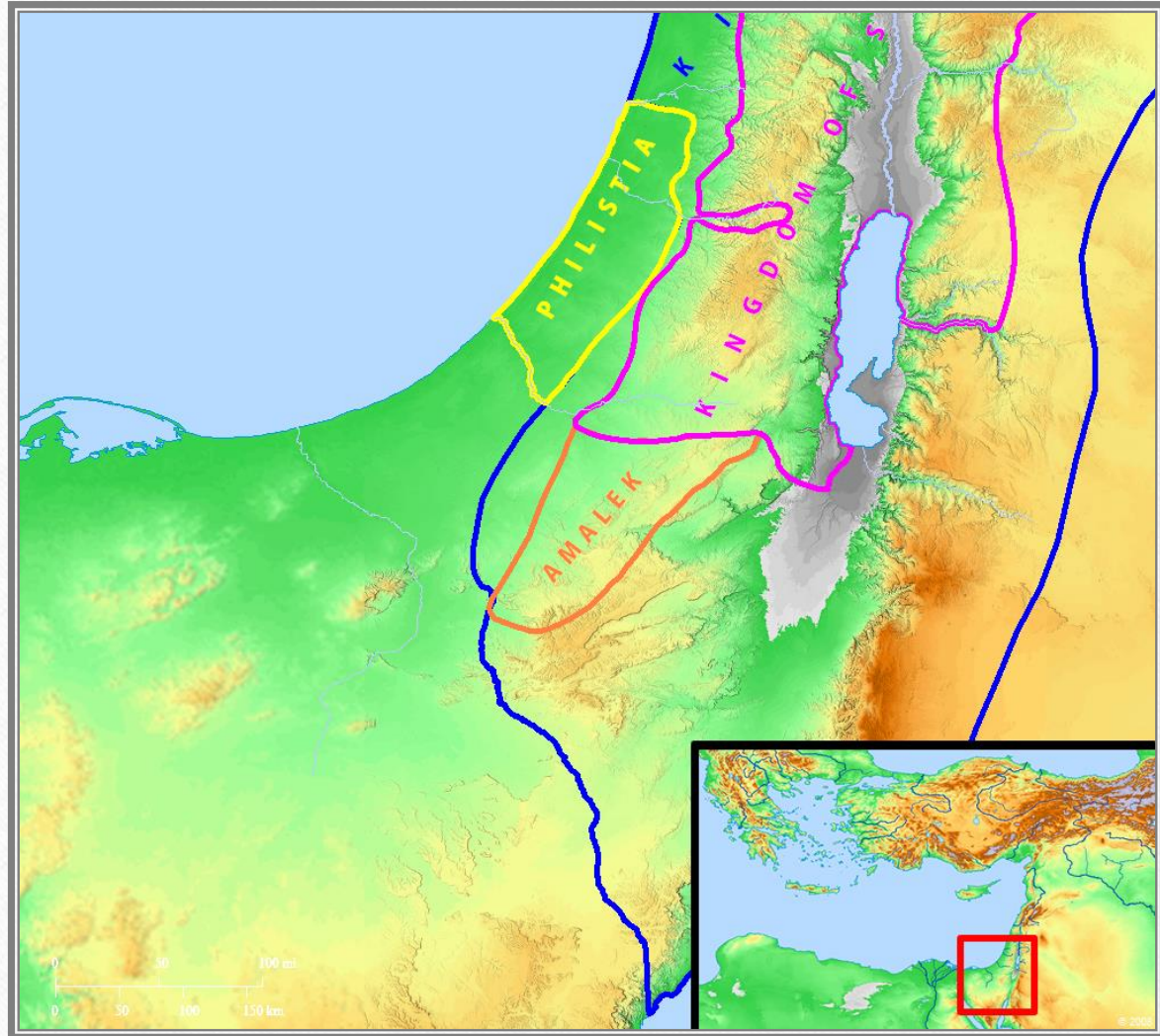
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Chapter 15

Saul vs. Amalek

The Amalekites

- Descendants of Esau – Genesis 36:12
- Nomads that lived in the Negev Desert.
- The first nation to attack Israel in the Exodus – Exodus 17.
 - Fought dirty - terrorists



The Amalekite Campaign

- Israelite forces:
 - 200,000 from Israel
 - 10,000 from Judah
- The Kenite tribe was warned to leave.
- The Amalekites are attacked throughout their territory...
- ...but the king and the best livestock were saved...
- ...and there are plenty of survivors because the name and people continue.



Saul's Second Rejection

- Saul has the audacity to claim to have obeyed God! – vs. 13
- Saul's sin:
 - Pride – vs. 17
 - Disobedience – vs. 19
 - Rejecting God's command – vs. 23



Samuel and Saul

- Saul grabs Samuel's robe and rips it - an object lesson that the kingdom was torn from him.
- Samuel does what Saul should have and slays Agag.
- The two men return to their respective homes and will only meet in passing once more before Samuel's death.

