

**Lesson 5**  
Saul Reigns Over Israel  
( 1 Samuel 13:1 – 15:35 )

**Questions**

1. What did Jonathan do at Geba and what did Saul do (13:1-4)?
  
2. What was the condition of the people of Israel when the Philistines came against them in Mich-mash (13:5-7)?
  
3. What did Saul do that he should not have done and what was his reason (excuse) for doing so (13:8-12)?
  
4. What was Samuel's response to Saul (13:13-15)?
  
5. How was the Philistine army divided (13:15-18) and what was not found among the men and why (13:19-23)?
  
6. What did Jonathan do that he did not tell his father he was doing and what happened (14:1-15)?
  
7. Who did Saul consult and who won the battle at Beth-aven (14:16-23)?
  
8. What curse did Saul pronounce upon the people and what did Jonathan unknowingly do (14:24-30)?
  
9. How did Saul find out what his son had done and how was Jonathan rescued (14:31-46)?

10. What did the people do with the spoil and what did Saul build (14:31-35)?
11. What different peoples did Saul fight against and what was the outcome (14:47-48)?
12. What were the names of Saul's children and what was the name of his wife, captain, and father (14:49-52)?
13. What did Samuel tell Saul to do and why (15:1-3)?
14. What did Saul do to the Amalekites and who and what were spared (15:4-9)?
15. What reason (excuse) did Saul offer Samuel for his refusal to utterly destroy all that the Amalekites had (15:10-16, 17-21)?
16. What did the Lord do to Saul and why (15:22-23)?
17. What did Saul finally admit and what did Samuel tell him concerning his kingdom (15:24-31)?
18. What did Samuel do to Agag and what did he do for Saul (15:32-35)?

### **Digging Deeper**

1. How old was Saul when he began to reign over Israel (13:1)? Compare different translations.

2. Locate the following on a map: Mich-mash (13:2, 5, 16; 14:5, 31), the mount of Bethel (13:2), Gibeah (13:2, 15; 14:2, 16), Geba (13:3, 16; 14:5), Gilgal (13:4, 7, 8, 15; 15:12), the land of Gad and Gilead (13:7), Ophrah and Shual (13:17), Beth-horon (13:18), the valley of Zeboim (13:18), Migron (14:2), Beth-aven (14:23), Aijalon (14:31), Telaim (15:4), Havilah and Shur (15:7), Carmel (15:12), Moab, Ammon, Edom, Zobah, Philistia, and the Amalekites (15:47-48).
  
3. What is the connection between 1 Samuel 13:8 and 1 Samuel 10:8 and what is the amount of time between the two verses? Is it seven days, or more?
  
4. What “commandment of the Lord” did Saul not keep (13:13-14)?
  
5. Where is the OT prohibition against eating blood (14:31-35)?
  
6. Where in the OT are we told about what Amalek did to Israel (15:2)? Who were the Kenites and where in the OT are told about what they did to Israel (15:6)? How do you reconcile 1 Samuel 15:8 with 1 Samuel 27:8?
  
7. How do you reconcile 1 Samuel 15:35 with 1 Samuel 19:24?

### **Applications for Today**

1. We must obey God’s commands and not make excuses for our disobedience (13:8-12; Lk. 14:18-19).
  
2. We might think that we have reasons (excuses) for not obeying the Lord’s commands (“situation ethics”), but the Lord does not accept them (13:13-15; Prov. 14:12; Rom. 3:8). Don’t make excuses for your sins (15:15, 20-21; 1 Sam. 13:11-12; Mt. 22:1-14; Lk. 14:18-19; Rom. 1:21; 2:1).
  
3. It is foolish to disobey God and sin (13:13; Num. 12:11; 2 Sam. 24:10; Psa. 69:5).

4. The Lord is still looking for a “man after his own heart” to serve him and do all his will (13:14; Acts 13:22).
5. Some people follow man’s rules, but not God’s rules (14:24-35; Mt. 15:1-9).
6. It is good to go to the Lord and ask him to show us what is right (14:41; Psa. 16:11).
7. The Lord’s commands can be understood (15:1-3; 1 Sam. 13:8; 1 Jn. 5:3).
8. When a person does not completely obey God, he disobeys God. Partial obedience is still disobedience (15:3, 8-9, 13-16; 1 Sam. 13:8-10; Col. 1:23; 2:6; Rev. 2-3).
9. You can commit what is wrong and omit what is right (15:9; 1 Sam. 13:11-12; James 4:17; 1 Jn. 3:4; 5:17).
10. We should be held accountable for our sins (15:10-14, 16-19, 22-23; 1 Sam. 13:11, 13; Acts 8:20-24).
11. Sometimes the Lord repents (regrets) what he has done with mankind. Let us never live in such a way that the Lord repents (regrets) something in us (15:11, 35; Gen. 6:6-7).
12. The end does not justify the means (15:15, 20-21; Prov. 14:12; Rom. 3:8).
13. What the Lord says is important, not what we think or feel (15:1-2, 11, 16, 17-19; Jn. 2:5).
14. The Lord wants our obedience, not our good intentions, ideas, or plans (15:22-23; Jer. 7:22-23; Hos. 6:6; Mk. 12:33).
15. Rebellion and stubbornness against the Lord will cause one to be rejected (15:23; Psa. 5:10).
16. God punishes sin (15:23, 26, 28; 1 Sam. 13:14; 1 Cor. 5:7; 1 Tim. 1:20).
17. Sometimes the consequences (punishments) of one’s sins cannot be changed even though a person is willing to admit his sin and keep worshipping the Lord (15:24-31; Prov. 11:31; Gal. 6:7-8).
18. Be the ideal person of obedience that God wants you to be (15:28; 1 Sam. 13:14; Rev. 1:3; 14:12; 17:14; 22:7)
19. Always remember that the Lord is not a man and does not change like a man changes (15:29; Num. 23:19).