

Lesson 5-Homework Saul's Disobedience

1st Samuel Chapters 13-15

Directions: Use your study bible, internet, or any other study source to help you with these questions.

1. Locate the following places and write down their geographical locations.
 - Philistine territory

 - Geba

 - Gibeah

2. Jonathan defeated the Philistine garrison at Geba.
 - How many men did Jonathan take with him?

 - Locate Saul and his men when Jonathan challenged the Philistines?

 - What do we learn about Saul's character after Jonathan's victory over the philistines?

 - How did the Philistines respond after their defeat?

3. Read 1st Samuel 10:8 and 1st Samuel 13:8-9.

- What directions did Samuel give to Saul?
- Did Saul disobey Samuel? Explain. What excuse did Saul give for disobeying?
- How did Samuel respond to Saul?
- Did Saul repent after the rebuke?

4. Explain the significance of the following:

- Peace Offering
- Burnt Offering

5. Why did the Philistines allow the Israelites to sharpen their farm tools in their camp?

- What does this tell you about Israel's military condition?

Lesson 5

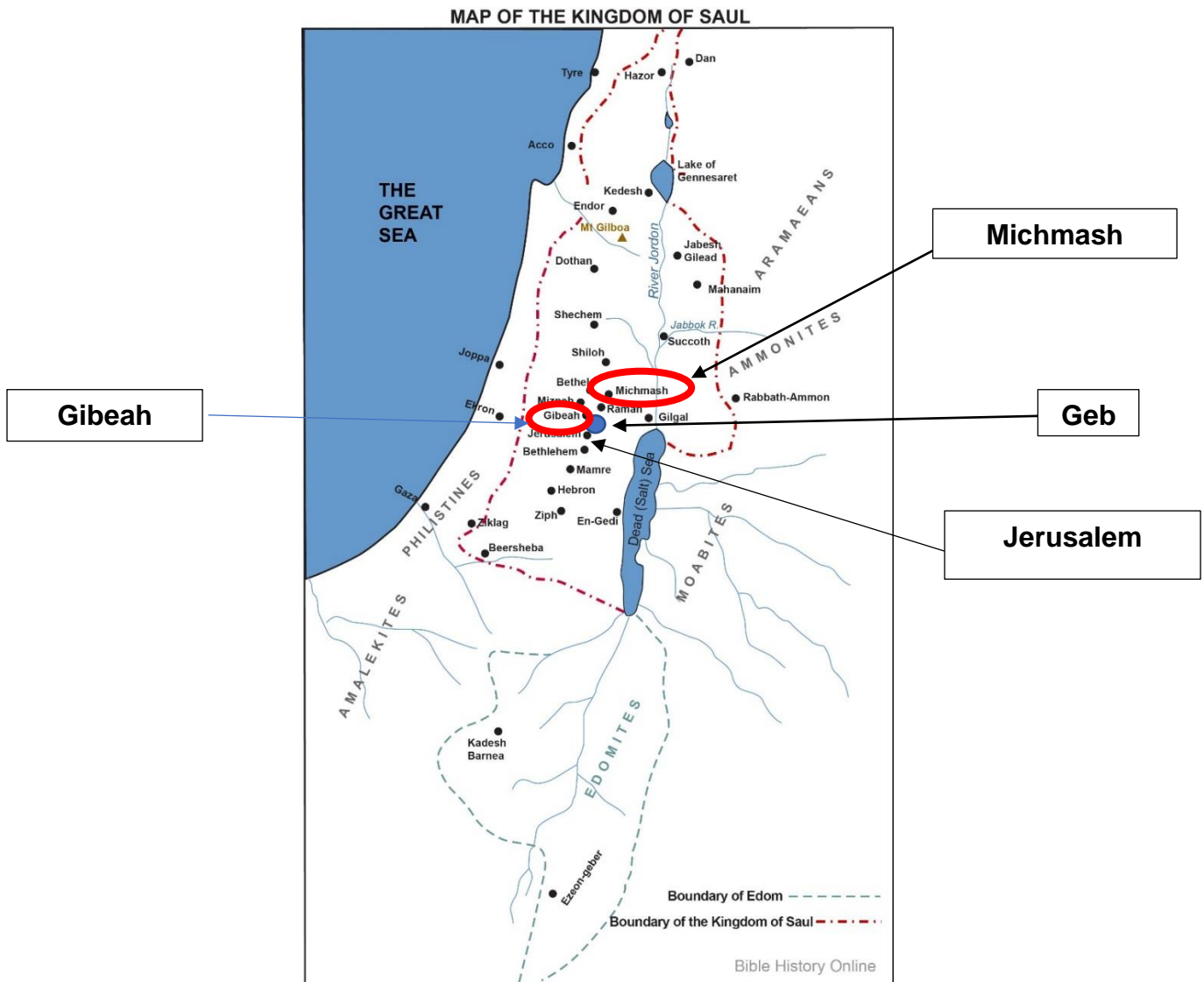
1 Samuel Chapters 13-15

Saul's Disobedience

Chapter 13-God Rejects Saul as His anointed

Vs. 1-7-Saul's Victory Over the Philistines

Saul began to reign at approximately 30 years old. He reigned 40 years over Israel.

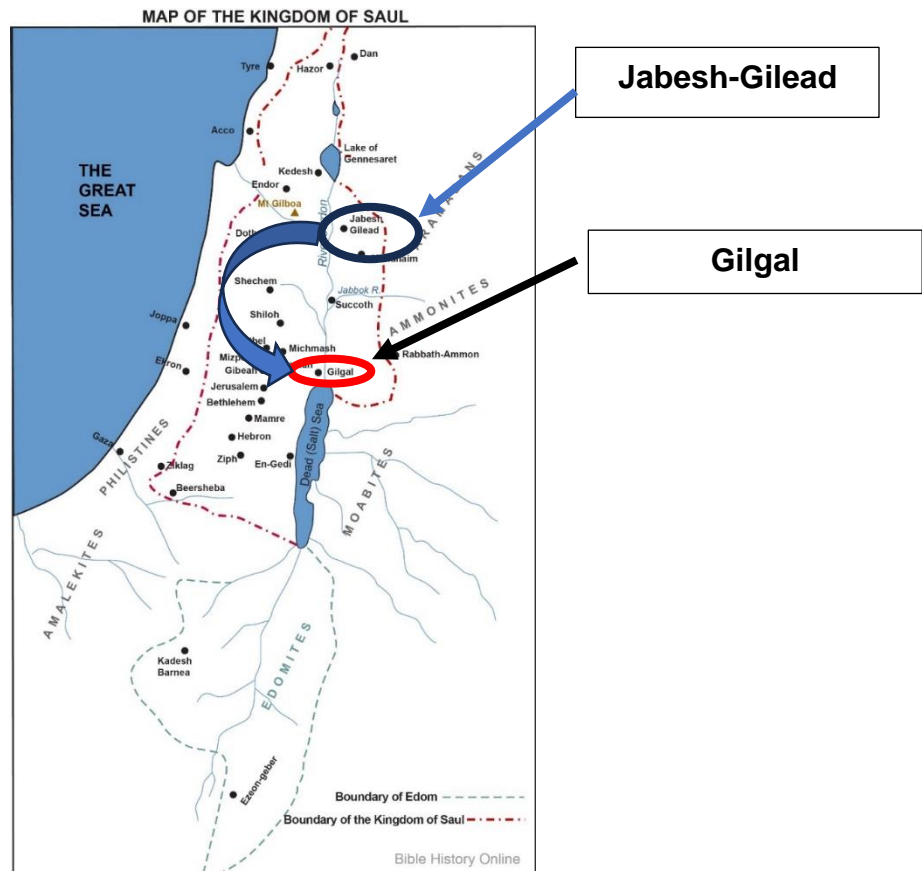


<http://www.bible-history.com/maps/Map-Kingdom-of-Saul-enlarged.jpg>

- The Philistines waged war against **Israel** (Deuteronomy 7:1-10).
- Saul chose for himself 3,000 men of which 2,000 stayed with him in Michmash, about 7 miles NE of Jerusalem. (**see map pg. 42**).
- Jonathan, Saul's son, had 1,000 men with him at Gibeah of Benjamin. For whatever reason, Saul sent the rest of his army home.
- **Jonathan** smote the garrison of Philistines in Geba. Unfortunately, we begin to see the true character of Saul. Instead of giving credit to Jonathan, he gathered the people together and took the credit for the victory.
- After the defeat, the Philistines assembled **30,000** chariots and 6,000 horsemen to fight Israel. The Philistines camped at Michmash (**see map pg. 42**) I wonder whether Saul wished he had given the credit to Jonathan-lol.
- The Israelites hid in caves, thickets, cliffs, cellars, pits, and some crossed east of the Jordan River into the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul, however, remained in Gilgal.

Vs. 8-12-Saul Oversteps His Bounds and Offers the Burnt and Peace Offerings

- Earlier, Samuel told Saul to wait for him at **Gilgal** (Chapter 10:8). Samuel told Saul to wait seven days for him to arrive. For some reason, Samuel did not arrive at the appointed time and some of the people began to leave.



<http://www.bible-history.com/maps/Map-Kingdom-of-Saul-enlarged.jpg>

- To **unify** the people, Saul did not wait for Samuel but offered the burnt and peace offerings himself.



<http://biblestudyoutlines.org/bible-study-lessons/old-testament-bible-study/exodus-27-bible-study/attachment/the-altar-of-burnt-offering/>

- The Israelites offered the peace offerings and thanked God for His good works. ¹
- The burnt offerings symbolized completeness. According to the Old Testament, the burnt offering stood for the highest order of sacrifice to the Lord.²
- When Saul offered the sacrifice, he showed his desire to rule as an **autocrat** in civil and sacred matters.
- Samuel might have waited to test Saul's character and obedience to God.
- Immediately after the offerings, Samuel arrived and asked Saul what he had done.
- Saul said he offered the sacrifices since the people started to disperse; Samuel arrived late; and the Philistines had assembled at Michmash.
- The Philistines arrived with 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen.
- Saul said he "**forced**" himself to make the sacrifice-yea-right!

¹ <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11966-peace-offering>

² <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3847-burnt-offering>

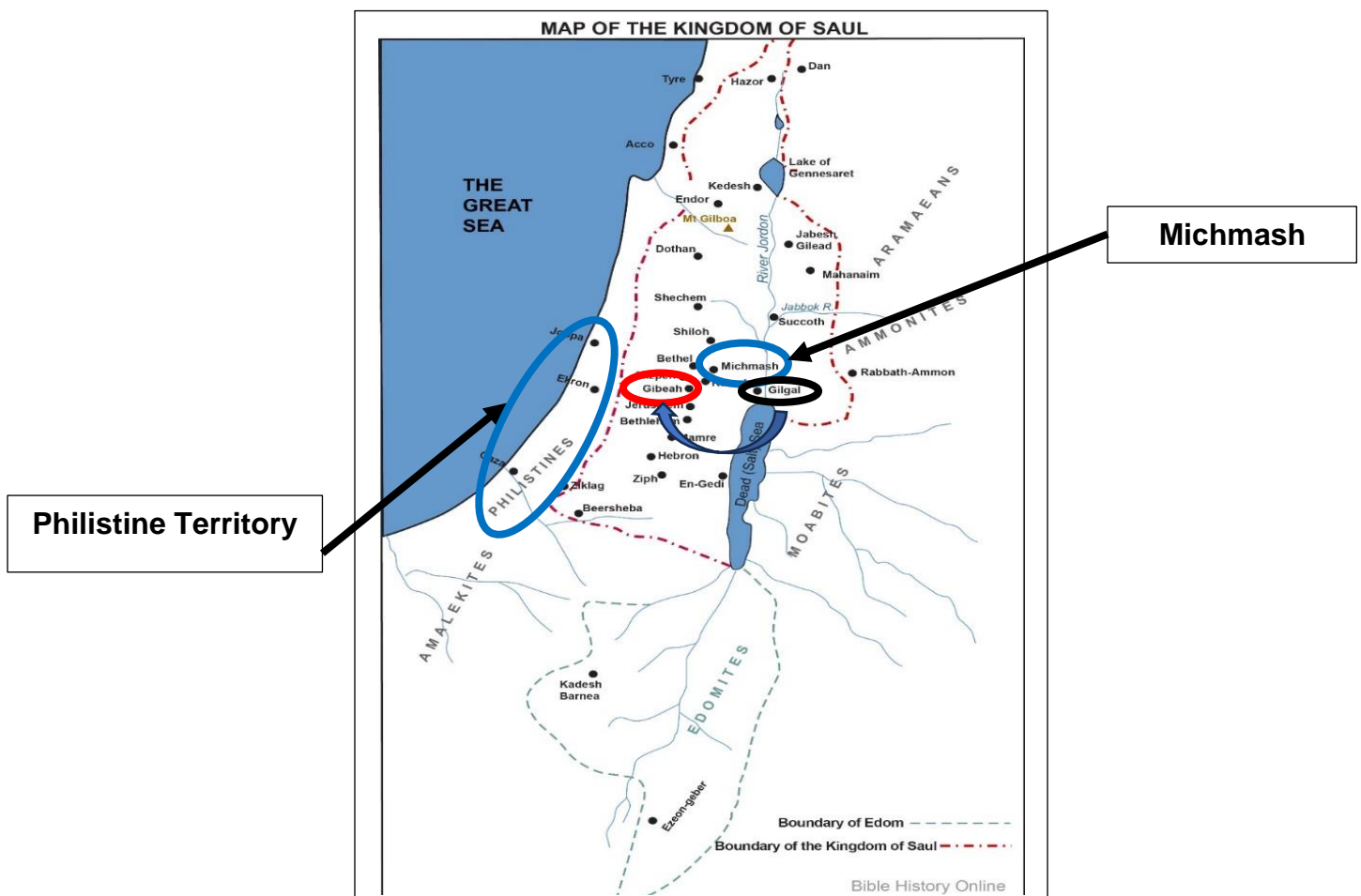
Vs. 13-23-Samuel Reprimands Saul

- Samuel **rebuked** Saul and said his kingdom would not last. Samuel told Saul God would establish another king for Himself, a man after His own heart. David would fulfill this prophecy. Apparently, the Messiah would have come from Saul's line but now it would come from the line of David.
- Scriptures do not indicate Saul ever **repented**. Scripture simply states Samuel went up from Gilgal to Gibeah (**see map below**).
- The Philistines planned a raid against Israel.
- Saul's followers numbered **600** men.
- The Philistines had a monopoly on iron and metal-working craftsmen until the time of David's reign.
- As a result, the Israelites went to the Philistine camp and sharpened their farming tools. Apparently, the Israelites did not have adequate weapons. The Philistines saw a profit and charged the Israelites a high price.

Chapter 14-Saul's Unwise Vows

Vs. 1-23-Jonathan's Victory Over the Philistines

- The Philistines camped at Michmash while Saul camped on the outskirts of Gibeah. Saul had about 600 men with him.



- Apparently, Saul did not consult **Ahijah**, the high priest-great-grandson of Eli, concerning the will of the Lord.
- The Lord gave Jonathan tremendous courage. He took his armorbearer and crossed over to the Philistine camp.
- Jonathan threw out a “**fleece**” (a test) and said to his armorbearer, “If the Philistines come over to us, we will not fight them. However, if the Philistines tell us to come to them, we will know the Lord has delivered the Philistines into our hands.”
- The Philistines called Jonathan over. He and his armorbearer knew the Lord would grant them victory. Jonathan and his armorbearer killed about **twenty** men.



<http://www.scienceofcorrespondences.com/jonathan-s-victory--1-samuel-14-1-23-.htm>

- The Lord sent a trembling throughout the camp and a great earthquake shook the land.
- Saul heard the commotion and realized Jonathan and his armor bearer had left.
- Saul summoned Ahijah to consult the Lord. As the commotion increased, Saul-in haste, ordered the priest to **stop** his inquiry. Compare Samuel with Saul.
- Saul rallied the people, and the Israelites scattered the Philistines.

Vs. 24-52

- The Israelites fell to exhaustion since Saul had placed them under an oath not to **eat** until he had avenged the Israelites.
- Unfortunately, Jonathan did not hear the oath and he tasted some honey on the ground.
- Due to extreme hunger, the Israelites began eating the Philistines' **uncooked** animals. Eating blood violated God's Law.
- Saul inquired whether they should pursue the Philistines and gather the spoils. The Lord did not answer due to Jonathan's disobedience to Saul's oath.
- When Saul learned Jonathan had eaten the honey, he condemned Jonathan to **die**. Apparently, Saul valued his positional authority more than the life of his son.
- Fortunately, the people rescued Jonathan from Saul's judgment.
- Saul continued to pursue and inflict punishment upon Israel's enemies. He acted **valiantly** and expanded Israel's borders.
- We will later reference Abner, Saul's captain of the army and the son of Saul's uncle.

Chapter 15-Saul's Partial Obedience

Vs. 1-9-Saul Disobeys God's Order to Destroy the Amalekites

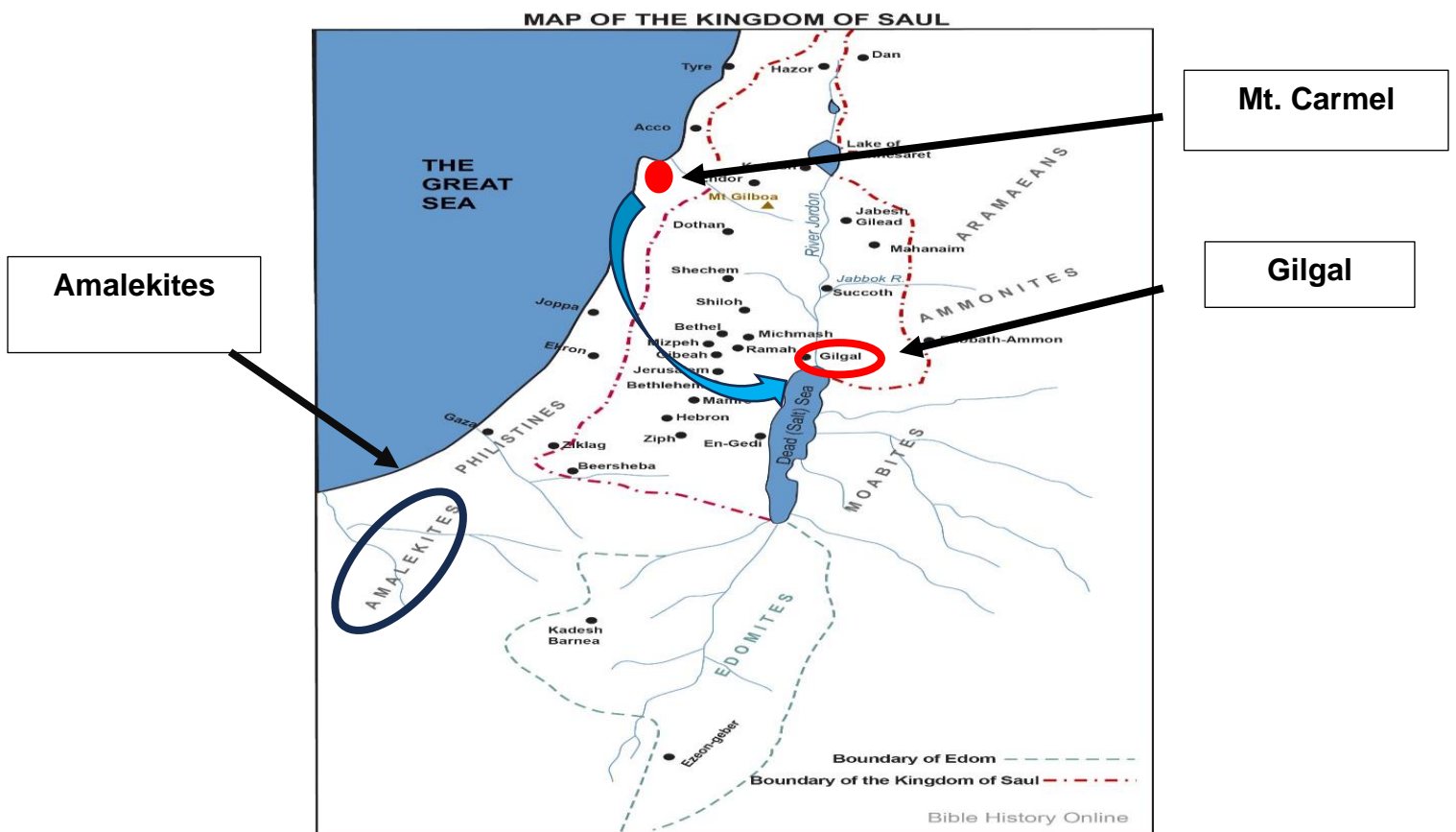
- God sent Samuel to **anoint** Saul as king over Israel.



- The Amalekites, descendants of Esau, attacked Israel in the desert during the days of Moses. Due to their harsh treatment, God sent judgment upon the Amalekite nation. God told Saul to destroy all the Amalekites, anything living or nonliving.
- Saul disobeyed God's word and saved the Amalekite king. He also allowed the Israelites to keep the Amalekite's **best** animals and material goods.

Vs. 10-35-God Rejects Saul as King

- God told Samuel he **regretted** making Saul king. Samuel grieved over Saul's failure to serve God.
- Saul set up a monument for himself in Carmel and then went down to Gilgal.



http://www.bible-history.com/maps/kingdom_saul.html

- Samuel asked Saul about the spoils. Saul tried to make an excuse by saying he saved the animals for **sacrifice**.
- Samuel reprimanded Saul for his disobedience. Instead of asking for forgiveness, Saul said, "I did obey the voice of the Lord, and went on the mission on which the Lord sent me..."

- Saul blamed the people for keeping the best of the spoils. Note how Saul answered Samuel, “But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord **your God** at Gilgal.”
- God gives us a strong message in Vs. 22, “...Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...”
- Samuel told Saul God had **rejected** him as king.
- As Samuel turned to go, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and tore it. Samuel stated God had also torn the kingdom from Saul.



http://contemplativesintheworld.blogspot.com/2014_06_01_archive.html

- Saul admitted he had sinned. However, Saul's pride centered more upon his **image**. Saul wanted Samuel to accompany him to make the appearance of Samuel's support.
- Samuel killed Agag king of the Amalekites.
- Samuel went to his home in **Ramah** and Saul went up to his house at **Gibeah**.
- Samuel never saw Saul alive again and yet he grieved over Saul. The Lord regretted he had made Saul king over Israel.

Summary

The Lord blesses those who honor and obey Him. Obeying often means waiting patiently for the Lord to work. God understands our weaknesses and remains an ever-present help in times of trouble. When faced with tough decisions, we often jump to answers and conclusions too quickly. Decision making often involves spending time with God, His Word, and fellow Christians. We need to ask and seek advice. Most importantly, we must take God with us each step of the way. Trust God and He will lead.