



The Book of
1 Samuel

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Saul Disobeys God
January 22, 2024

What is happening in Israel?

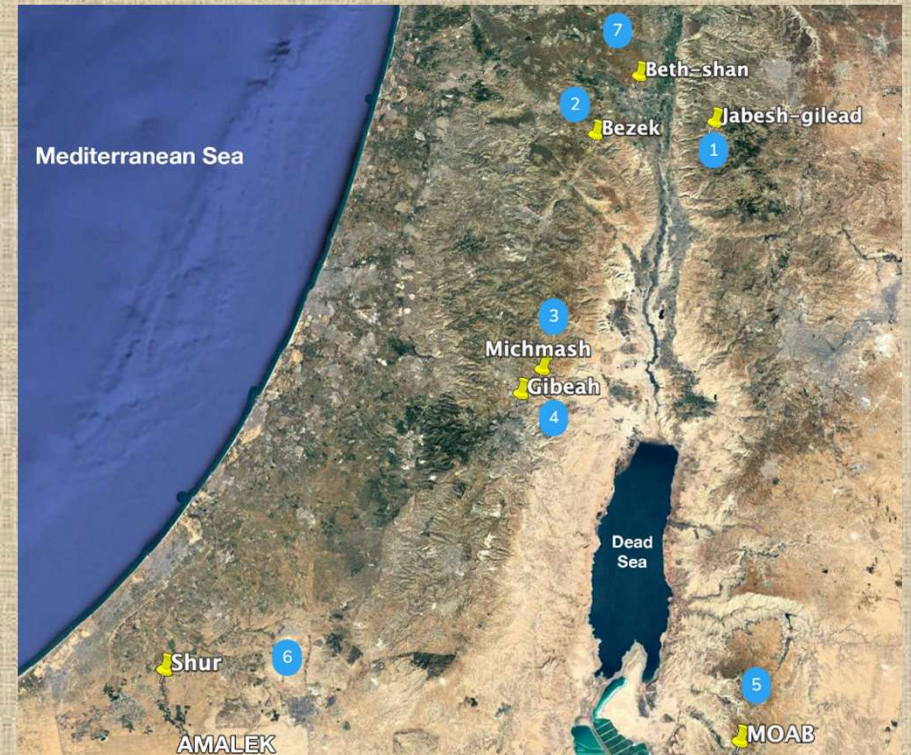
- Around 1020 B.C. Saul became king
- Israel is having constant wars with the Philistines and other countries
- God gives Saul great success over the enemies of Israel
- At first Saul listens to God and to Samuel, but then he decides to make his own decisions.....

Map of Philistine Cities and Conquests



Saul's Victories in War

Some of Israel's Battles during Saul's Reign			
Battle	Victor	Description	Scripture
Jabesh-Gilead	Israel	Saul delivered the people of Jabesh from the Ammonites.	1 Samuel 11:1-11
Gibeah	Israel	Jonathan killed the Philistine governor at Gibeah and the Philistine garrison was driven out.	1 Samuel 13:3-4
Michmash	Israel	Philistines defeated by Jonathan and Saul	1 Samuel 14:6-23
Amalek	Israel	Saul's forces defeat the Amalekites	1 Samuel 15:1-9



Saul's Failures as King



<https://youtu.be/frPfqthi0Us>

Saul's Failures as King

- First, Saul took **his circumstances** seriously, but he didn't take God seriously. Samuel had told King Saul to go to Gilgal and wait for him to come and sacrifice offerings to the Lord (1 Sam. 10:8). But with the enemy Philistine army so close, Saul took it upon himself to offer the sacrifice (1 Sam. 13:9). Saul had no right to offer sacrifices.
- Second, Saul took **himself** seriously, but he didn't take God seriously. Jonathan, Saul's son, led the people to victory over the Philistines (1 Sam. 14:13-14). In the heat and confusion of battle, Saul made a rash oath (1 Sam. 14:24). In situations like this, it can be tempting to make statements that are foolish, irresponsible, and sometimes even downright dangerous. Saul refused to renounce his vow even when his own son was the one who unknowingly violated his command (1 Sam. 14:43-45).
- Third, Saul took **the people** seriously, but he didn't take God seriously. Saul took his army into battle against the Amalekites, but he spared Agag, the king of the Amalekites, along with the best of the plunder (1 Sam. 15:8-9)—in direct violation of God's orders. When Samuel confronted Saul, the king passed the buck and blamed the soldiers (1 Sam. 15:21). Only later did Saul admit, "I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded" (1 Sam. 15:24).

QUESTIONS

- When Saul was younger, and at war, he listened to God more. Do you think we listen to God more when life is not easy?
- Samuel said that what pleases God the most is our obedience. Why does God want us to obey more than he wants other things we can offer Him?
- Do you have any examples of when you were obedient to God? Why is it important to take God seriously?