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2 *The epic battle between Goliath, the giant, and young David, as recorded in I Samuel 17.*

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The Philistines after awhile were no longer content to remain coastal and began to edge inland. The first notice of them in the Bible as the principal enemy of Israel comes in the days of Samson (Judges chapters 13-16) about the beginning of the 11th century. By this time they already controlled at least the tribes of Dan and Judah (Judges 14:4). ***But his (Samson's) father and his mother knew not that it was of the Lord, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.***

1 Judges 15:11

2 *Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam,*
3 *and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers*
4 *over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto*
5 *them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.*

6

7 As conflict between these two nations continued to escalate, the Israelites
8 started to clamor for a king. The Philistines managed to secure strongholds
9 at various key points in Israel and even managed to capture the sacred Ark
10 of the Covenant. Saul might have been able to keep Israel sovereign, but
11 his growing jealousy of David proved to unravel him.

12

13 Where was the prophet Samuel at this time?

14

15 1 Samuel 8:1-3

16 *And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges*
17 *over Israel. [2] Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name*
18 *of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beer-sheba. [3] And his sons*
19 *walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes,*
20 *and perverted judgment.*

21

22 There are not many people in positions of leadership who do not have to
23 wrestle with the problems imposed by that very leadership. Samuel would
24 have liked his sons to follow in his footsteps, but they proved unworthy.
25 They were "in it for the money" and took bribes, which made their
26 leadership decisions faulty. Now, all the louder, they people of Israel
27 clamored for a king. Remember – at this point – they had never had a
28 monarch over them - except God.

29

30 1 Samuel 8:19-22

31 *Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they*
32 *said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; [20] That we also may be like*
33 *all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us,*
34 *and fight our battles. [21] And Samuel heard all the words of the people,*
35 *and he rehearsed them in the ears of the Lord. [22] And the Lord said*

1 *to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And*
2 *Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.*

3

4 The Psalmist wrote the tragic end of this clamor:

5

6 Psalm 106:15

7 *And he (God) gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.*

8

9 It is a sorrowful thought that sometimes the thing we relentlessly belabor
10 God for can bring about our spiritual downfall.

11

12

ENTER KING SAUL

13

14 1 Samuel 9:1

15 *Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of*
16 *Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a*
17 *Benjamite, a mighty man of power.*

18

19 A bit of background on Saul: His father was named Kish. He belonged to
20 the tribe of Benjamin. The original Benjamin was a half-brother of Joseph
21 and belonged to their father Jacob. His mother died at birth and so Joseph
22 and Benjamin were favorites of their father – a fact that caused great
23 animosity within the family.

24

25

JACOB'S "FAMILY"

26

27 In his early life, Jacob was a poor excuse for a godly man. Born as a twin
28 to Isaac, he was the 11th son of Jacob, but second given birth by Rachel –
29 whom Jacob adored. Sadly, he had four women in his life:

30

31 Rachel – gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin

32 Leah – gave birth to Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar
33 and Zebulun

34 Bilhah – (Rachel's maid) bore Dan and Naphtali

35 Zilpah – (Leah's maid) bore Gad and Asher

1 These twelve boys were all sons of Jacob. This family was a bomb,
2 waiting to explode. And it did explode when Joseph was sold into
3 Egyptian slavery.

4 5 **SIDEBAR** 6

7 It is sometimes taught that the Jews built the pyramids when they were
8 slaves in Egypt. That is not true. Those massive grave structures were
9 erected at least a thousand years before Joseph ever arrived in Egypt.
10 There can be little doubt that Joseph saw the pyramids even as he arrived
11 in the land of the Nile. The Jews built the treasure cities of
12 Pharaoh Ramses.

13
14 All this to show you clearly Saul's family background - a son of Kish of
15 the tribe of Benjamin.

16
17 Saul's Achilles heel was his ego. I don't think he ever meant ill for his
18 people, but his pride and arrogance brought them all they could handle. In
19 the meantime, young David's star was rising quickly, which drove Saul
20 almost insane. And we must not forget that years before, Saul had been
21 anointed future king by the very same Samuel who had poured the
22 anointing oil on young David 'way back on his father's farm
23 near Bethlehem.

24
25 1 Samuel 10:1

26 ***Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head (Saul's),***
27 ***and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee***
28 ***to be captain over his inheritance?***

29
30 Saul could have been Israel's greatest leader, in my opinion, but his ego,
31 his pride and arrogance, denied him that honor. But he got off to a
32 good start:

33
34 1 Samuel 11: 15

35 ***And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before***
36 ***the Lord in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings***

1 *before the Lord; and there Saul and all the men of Israel*
2 *rejoiced greatly.*

3

4 Gilgal was an important city in the early days of Israel and was located
5 just east of Jericho.

6

7 Saul had three sons who gave us the evidence that Saul must have been a
8 good father:

9

10 1 Samuel 31: 1-3

11 *Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled*
12 *from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. [2]*
13 *And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the*
14 *Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchi-shua, Saul's*
15 *sons. [3] And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him;*
16 *and he was sore wounded of the archers. Most of David's sons were*
17 *disloyal to him, even attempting to take the throne from him.*

18

19 SAUL'S FOLLY WITH THE AMALEKITES AND KING AGAG

20

21 1 Samuel 15:2-11

22 *Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to*
23 *Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from*
24 *Egypt. [3] Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they*
25 *have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and*
26 *suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. [4] And Saul gathered the people*
27 *together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand*
28 *footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. [5] And Saul came to a city*
29 *of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. [6] And Saul said unto the*
30 *Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I*
31 *destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of*
32 *Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from*
33 *among the Amalekites. [7] And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah*
34 *until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. [8] And he took*
35 *Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the*
36 *people with the edge of the sword. [9] But Saul and the people spared*

1 *Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and*
2 *the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them:*
3 *but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. [10]*
4 *Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, [11] It repenteth*
5 *me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from*
6 *following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it*
7 *grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.*

8

9 What decision had King Saul made that so angered God? The Amalekites
10 had made God so angry that He promised divine judgment upon them.
11 The Israelites had just crossed the Red Sea:

12

13 Exodus 17:8

14 *Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

15

16 The Amalekites could have been a great help to Israel when she appeared
17 vulnerable, but instead took advantage of them and attacked. To say God
18 was angry is an understatement:

19

20 1 Samuel 15:2-3

21 *Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to*
22 *Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from*
23 *Egypt. [3] Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they*
24 *have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and*
25 *suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.*

26

27 If I were involved in enmity against Israel today, that verse would shake
28 me to my bones. Saul apparently thought his decision was more important
29 than God's:

30

31 1 Samuel 15:9

32 *But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of*
33 *the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and*
34 *would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse,*
35 *that they destroyed utterly.*

36

1 God did not want the Amalekites to be a further source of danger to Israel.
2 Agag, whom Saul spared, was an ancestor to Haman, who we read in the
3 Book of Esther sought to eliminate the Jews from existence.

4

5 Esther 3:1

6 *After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of*
7 *Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all*
8 *the princes that were with him.*

9

10 Saul's disobedience to God could have cost the Jews their existence. In
11 the meantime, David is down east of the Dead Sea, in hiding at En Gedi.

12

13 VIDEO