

Vayikra, Shabbat Zachor, Haftarah

I Samuel 15:2-34

“Thus said the LORD of Hosts: I am exacting the penalty for what Amalek did to Israel, for the assault he made upon them on the road, on their way up from Egypt.

Now go, attack Amalek, and proscribe all that belongs to him. Spare no one, but kill alike men and women, infants and sucklings, oxen and sheep, camels and asses!”

Saul mustered the troops and enrolled them at Telaim: 200,000 men on foot, and 10,000 men of Judah.

Then Saul advanced as far as the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the wadi.

Saul said to the Kenites, “Come, withdraw at once from among the

שמואל א ט"ו:ב'-ל"ד

כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת פְּקֹדֶתִי אֶת
אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה עִמָּלֶךְ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל
אֲשֶׁר-שָׂם לוֹ בְּדַרְךְ בְּעֵלְתוֹ
מִמִּצְרַיִם:

עַתָּה לֵךְ וְהִכִּיתָ אֶת-עִמָּלֶךְ
וְהִחַרְמְתָם אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ וְלֹא
תִּחַמֵּל עָלָיו וְהִמַּתָּ מֵאִישׁ
עַד-אִשָּׁה מִנְּעִלָּה וְעַד-יֹנֵק מִשׁוֹר
וְעַד-שֵׁה מִגָּמֶל וְעַד-חֶמּוֹר: {ס}
וַיִּשְׁמַע שָׂאוּל אֶת-הָעָם וַיִּפְקְדֵם
בְּטַלְאִים מֵאֲתִים אֶלְף רַגְלֵי
וַעֲשָׂרַת אֲלָפִים אֶת-אִישׁ יְהוּדָה:
וַיָּבֵא שָׂאוּל עַד-עֵיר עִמָּלֶךְ וַיַּרְב
בַּנַּחַל:

וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאוּל אֶל-הַקֵּינִי לְכוּ סְרוּ
רְדוּ מִתּוֹךְ עִמָּלֶקִי פֶן-אֶסְפְּךָ עִמּוֹ

Amalekites, that I may not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they left Egypt.” So the Kenites withdrew from among the Amalekites.

Saul destroyed Amalek from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is close to Egypt, and he captured King Agag of Amalek alive. He proscribed all the people, putting them to the sword; but Saul and the troops spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the second-born, the lambs, and all else that was of value. They would not proscribe them; they proscribed only what was cheap and worthless.

The word of the LORD then came to Samuel:

“I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned away from Me and has not carried out My commands.” Samuel was distressed

וְאַתָּה עָשִׂיתָהּ חֶסֶד עִם־כָּל־בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֵלוֹתָם מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּסַּר
קִינִי מִתּוֹךְ עַמְּלֵק׃
וַיֵּךְ שָׂאוּל אֶת־עַמְּלֵק מִחֻוִּילָה
בּוֹאֵךְ שׁוּר אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי מִצְרַיִם׃
וַיִּתְּפֹשׂ אֶת־אַגָּג מֶלֶךְ־עַמְּלֵק חָיִ
וְאֶת־כָּל־הָעָם הַחֲרִים לְפִי־חָרָב׃
וַיַּחְמֹל שָׂאוּל וְהָעָם עַל־אַגָּג
וְעַל־מֵיטֵב הַצֹּאֵן וְהַבָּקָר וְהַמְּשָׁנִים
וְעַל־הַכְּרִים וְעַל־כָּל־הַטּוֹב וְלֹא
אַבּוּ הַחֲרִימָם וְכָל־הַמְּלָאכָה
נִמְבָּזָה וְנִמְסָה אֹתָהּ הַחֲרִימוּ׃ {פ}
וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־שְׁמוּאֵל
לֵאמֹר׃
נִחַמְתִּי כִּי־הִמְלַכְתִּי אֶת־שָׂאוּל
לְמַלְךְ כִּי־שָׁב מֵאַחֲרַי וְאֶת־דְּבָרִי
לֹא הִקְיִים וַיַּחַר לְשְׁמוּאֵל וַיִּזְעַק
אֶל־יְהוָה כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה׃
וַיִּשְׁכַּם שְׁמוּאֵל לְקִרְאֵת שָׂאוּל
בַּבֶּקֶר וַיִּגַּד לְשְׁמוּאֵל לֵאמֹר

and he entreated the LORD all night long.

Early in the morning Samuel went to meet Saul. Samuel was told, “Saul went to Carmel, where he erected a monument for himself; then he left and went on down to Gilgal.”

When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have fulfilled the LORD’s command.”

“Then what,” demanded Samuel, “is this bleating of sheep in my ears, and the lowing of oxen that I hear?”

Saul answered, “They were brought from the Amalekites, for the troops spared the choicest of the sheep and oxen for sacrificing to the LORD your God. And we proscribed the rest.”

Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night!” “Speak,” he replied.

בְּאֶשְׁאוּל הַכְּרַמְלָה וְהָיָה מַצִּיב
לוֹ יָד וַיִּסֹּב וַיַּעֲבֹר וַיֵּרֶד הַגִּלְגָּל:
וַיָּבֹא שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל־שְׁאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ
שְׁאוּל בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה לַיהוָה הַקִּיַּמְתִּי
אֶת־דְּבַר יְהוָה:
וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל וַיְמַה קוֹל־הַצֹּאן
הַזֶּה בְּאָזְנִי וְקוֹל הַבָּקָר אֲשֶׁר
אֲנֹכִי שֹׁמֵעַ:
וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁאוּל מֵעַמְלֵקִי הֵבִיאוּם
אֲשֶׁר חָמַל הָעַם עַל־מִיטֵב הַצֹּאן
וְהַבָּקָר לְמַעַן זָבַח לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ
וְאֶת־הַיּוֹתֵר הֶחֱרַמְנוּ: {פ}
וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל־שְׁאוּל הֲרָף
וְאֶגִּידָה לְךָ אֵת אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה
אֵלַי הַלַּיְלָה (וַיֹּאמְרוּ) [וַיֹּאמֶר] לוֹ
דְּבַר: {ס}
וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל הֲלוֹא אִם־קָטַן
אַתָּה בְּעֵינַיִךְ רֹאשׁ שְׁבִטִי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אַתָּה וַיִּמְשַׁחֶךָ יְהוָה לְמֶלֶךְ
עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל:

And Samuel said, “You may look small to yourself, but you are the head of the tribes of Israel. The LORD anointed you king over Israel,

and the LORD sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and proscribe the sinful Amalekites; make war on them until you have exterminated them.’

Why did you disobey the LORD and swoop down on the spoil in defiance of the LORD’s will?”

Saul said to Samuel, “But I did obey the LORD! I performed the mission on which the LORD sent me: I captured King Agag of Amalek, and I proscribed Amalek, and the troops took from the spoil some sheep and oxen—the best of what had been proscribed—to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

But Samuel said: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As much as in obedience

וַיִּשְׁלַח־ךָ יְהוָה בְּדַרְךָ וַיֹּאמֶר לְךָ
וְהַחֲרַמְתָּה אֶת־הַחֹטְאִים
אֶת־עַמְלִק וְנִלְחַמְתָּ בּוֹ עַד כָּלֹתָם
אֹתָם:

וְלָמָּה לֹא־שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה
וַתַּעַט אֶל־הַשָּׁלַל וַתַּעַשׂ הָרַע
בְּעֵינַי יְהוָה: {ס}

וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאוּל אֶל־שְׂמוּאֵל אֲשֶׁר
שָׁמַעְתִּי בְּקוֹל יְהוָה וְאַלְךָ בְּדַרְךָ
אֲשֶׁר־שְׁלַחְתָּנִי יְהוָה וְאָבִיא אֶת־אַגָּג
מֶלֶךְ עַמְלִק וְאֶת־עַמְלִק הַחֲרַמְתִּי:
וַיִּקַּח הָעָם מִהַשָּׁלַל צֹאן וּבָקָר
רֵאשִׁית הַחֲרָם לְזִבְחַ לַיהוָה
אֶל־הַיָּד בְּגִלְגָּל: {ס}

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂמוּאֵל הַחֲפֹץ לַיהוָה
בְּעֵלוֹת וּזְבָחִים כְּשֹׁמֵעַ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה
הֲנֵה שְׂמַעַ מְזִבַּח טוֹב לְהִקְשִׁיב
מִתְּלַב אֵילִים:

כִּי חֲטָאת־קֶסֶם מְרִי וְאָוֹן וַתִּרְפֶּי
הַפֶּצֵר יַעַן מָאַסְתָּ אֶת־דְּבַר יְהוָה
וַיִּמְאַסֶּךָ מִמֶּלֶךְ: {ס}

to the LORD's command? Surely, obedience is better than sacrifice, Compliance than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is like the sin of divination, Defiance, like the iniquity of teraphim. Because you rejected the LORD's command, He has rejected you as king."

Saul said to Samuel, "I did wrong to transgress the LORD's command and your instructions; but I was afraid of the troops and I yielded to them.

Please, forgive my offense and come back with me, and I will bow low to the LORD."

But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not go back with you; for you have rejected the LORD's command, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel."

As Samuel turned to leave, Saul seized the corner of his robe, and it tore.

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאוּל אֶל־שְׂמוּאֵל חֲטָאתִי
כִּי־עָבַרְתִּי אֶת־פִּי־יְהוָה וְאֶת־דְּבָרֶיךָ
כִּי יֵרְאֵתִי אֶת־הָעָם וְאֶשְׁמַע
בְּקוֹלָם:

וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא אֶת־חַטָּאתִי וְשׁוּב
עִמָּי וְאַשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לַיהוָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂמוּאֵל אֶל־שְׂאוּל לֹא
אָשׁוּב עִמָּךְ כִּי מָאַסְתָּה אֶת־דְּבַר
יְהוָה וַיִּמְאַסְךָ יְהוָה מִהָיִית מֶלֶךְ
עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל: {ס}

וַיֹּסֵב שְׂמוּאֵל לָלֶכֶת וַיַּחֲזֹק

בְּכַנְף־מְעִילוֹ וַיִּקְרַע: {ס}

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו שְׂמוּאֵל קְרַע יְהוָה
אֶת־מַמְלְכוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵעַלְיֶיךָ הַיּוֹם
וַנִּתְּנָה לְרַעְוָה הַטּוֹב מִמֶּךָ: {ס}

וְגַם גִּנַּח יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִשְׁקַר וְלֹא
יִנָּחֵם כִּי לֹא אָדָם הוּא לְהִנָּחֵם:

וַיֹּאמֶר חֲטָאתִי עֲתָה כִּבְדַנִּי נָא

נִגַּד זְקַנְי־עַמִּי וְנִגַּד יִשְׂרָאֵל וְשׁוּב
עִמָּי וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתִי לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ:

And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has this day torn the kingship over Israel away from you and has given it to another who is worthier than you.

Moreover, the Glory of Israel does not deceive or change His mind, for He is not human that He should change His mind.”

But [Saul] pleaded, “I did wrong. Please, honor me in the presence of the elders of my people and in the presence of Israel, and come back with me until I have bowed low to the LORD your God.”

So Samuel followed Saul back, and Saul bowed low to the LORD.

Samuel said, “Bring forward to me King Agag of Amalek.” Agag approached him with faltering steps; and Agag said, “Ah, bitter death is at hand!”

Samuel said: “As your sword has bereaved women, So shall your mother be bereaved among

וַיֹּשֶׁב שְׁמוּאֵל אַחֲרַי שְׁאוּל
וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ שְׁאוּל לַיהוָה: {ס}
וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל הֲגִישׁוּ אֵלַי
אֶת־אַגַּג מֶלֶךְ עַמְלֵק וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלָיו
אַגַּג מֵעֲדָנָת וַיֹּאמֶר אַגַּג אֲכֹן סֹר
מִרְהֻמוֹת: {ס}
וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל כִּפְאוֹשֶׁר שְׁכֻלָּה
נָשִׁים חֲרָבָהּ כִּן־תִּשְׁכַּל מִנָּשִׁים
אֲמָהּ וַיִּשְׁפֹּף שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת־אַגַּג לְפָנָיו
יְהוָה בַּגְּלָגָל: {ס}
וַיֵּלֶךְ שְׁמוּאֵל הֲרַמְתָּה וְשְׁאוּל עֲלֶיהָ
אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ גִּבְעַת שְׁאוּל:

women.” And Samuel cut Agag
down before the LORD at Gilgal.
Samuel then departed for Ramah,
and Saul went up to his home at
Gibeah of Saul.

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