

## **SAUL'S REVERSIONISM**

Lord gave King Saul a detailed assignment (directive will of God) of a military assault upon the Amalekites (1 Sam.15:1-6). The Lord used the Hebrew word, charam (hiphil) [to utterly destroy], used six times (1 Sam.15:3, 8, 9, 15, 18, 20).

Saul did not carry out the detail of the directive will because of reversionism (1 Sam.15:7-23). Because of this reversionism, Saul was severely disciplined by the Lord (1 Sam.15:24-35).

**This lesson will study five aspects of Saul's Reversionism.**

### **1. Saul's reversionism (Jewish Age) is described by five characteristics.**

- **Reversionism:**
  - (1 Sam.15:11) "I regret that I have made Saul king, **for he has turned back from following Me** (reversionism) and has **not carried out My commands.**"
- **Disobedience and evil:**
  - (1 Sam.15:19) "Why did you **not obey the voice of the Lord**, but rushed upon the spoils and **did what was evil in the sight of the Lord?**"
- **Rebellion and Insubordination:**
  - (1 Sam.15:22-23) "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." "For **rebellion** is as the sin of divination, and **insubordination** is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king."
- **Separation:**
  - (1 Sam.15:26) "But Samuel said to Saul, '**I will not return with you** [separation] (2 Thess.3:6-7; 1 Pet.4:2-4); for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel."
- **Divine Discipline:**
  - (1 Sam.16:14) "Now the **Spirit of the Lord departed** from Saul, and an evil spirit from Lord terrorized him." (Church Age) "He will be with you forever" (John 14:16)
- **Definition of Reversionism:**
  - Reversionism is retrogression from any stage of spiritual growth because of a pattern of old man cosmos diabolicus thinking expressed through negative volition, rebellion, rejection of the revealed directive will of God, and evil in sight of the Lord (Heb.3:7-13).

### **2. Saul went to war and defeated the Amalekites, but lost the internal spiritual war of the Angelic Conflict (AC) (1 Pet.5:8-10; 1 John 4:4; Eph.6:10-17).**

The spiritually advancing believer is either engaged in **the will of God** or in the **will of Satan**. It is a daily choice (2 Tim.2:26).

**Conflict of Wills:** "And they may **come to their senses** and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held **captive by him to do his will.**" (2 Tim.2:26; 1 Tim.3:2, 6-7; 6:3-5; Matt.16:21-23; 2 Cor.11:13-15)

- What could a believer possibly gain by rejecting the will of Lord?
  - Saul (1 Sam.15:17, 20-21)
  - Eve (Gen.3:1-6; Isa.14:14; Matt.4:1-11; Rom.12:1)

### 3. Saul's pattern of conformity to world (old man cosmos diabolicus) (OMCD) thinking dominates his choices that oppose the directive will of God.

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may **prove what the will of God** is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

(1Pet.1:14) “As obedient children, do not be **conformed to the former lusts** which were yours in your ignorance.”

(Eph.2:2-3) “In which you **formerly walked according to the course of this world**, **according to the prince** of the power of the air, **of the spirit** that is now working in the **sons of disobedience**. Among them we too all **formerly lived in the lusts of the flesh and of the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

### 4. “Lord regretted” (nacham) (niphalf) is an anthropopathism used to express The Lord's attitude towards Saul's reversionism in human terms.

- **Reversionism of an individual:**
  - “**I regret** that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands.” (1 Sam.15:11, 35)
- **Reversionism of a civilization:**
  - The Antediluvian civilization (Gen.6:6-8).
- **Reversionism of an entire generation:**
  - The Exodus generation (Ps.78:40-42; 95:8-11; Heb.3:7-12).

### 5. Reversionism defiles the soul of the believer.

(1 Cor.8:7-9) “However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idols until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their **conscience being weak is defiled**. But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor better if we do eat. But take care that his liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.”

Under reversionism, the soul of the believer becomes dull of hearing the word and will of God.

(Heb.5:11-12) “Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since **you have become dull of hearing**. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to **need milk and not solid food**.”

- Write the details of directive will and recovery (confess sin to God) (Ps.51:1-4, 6, 10-11, 13, 17) and (charam) [utterly destroy] (1 Sam.15:32-35) [fulfill the details of directive will].