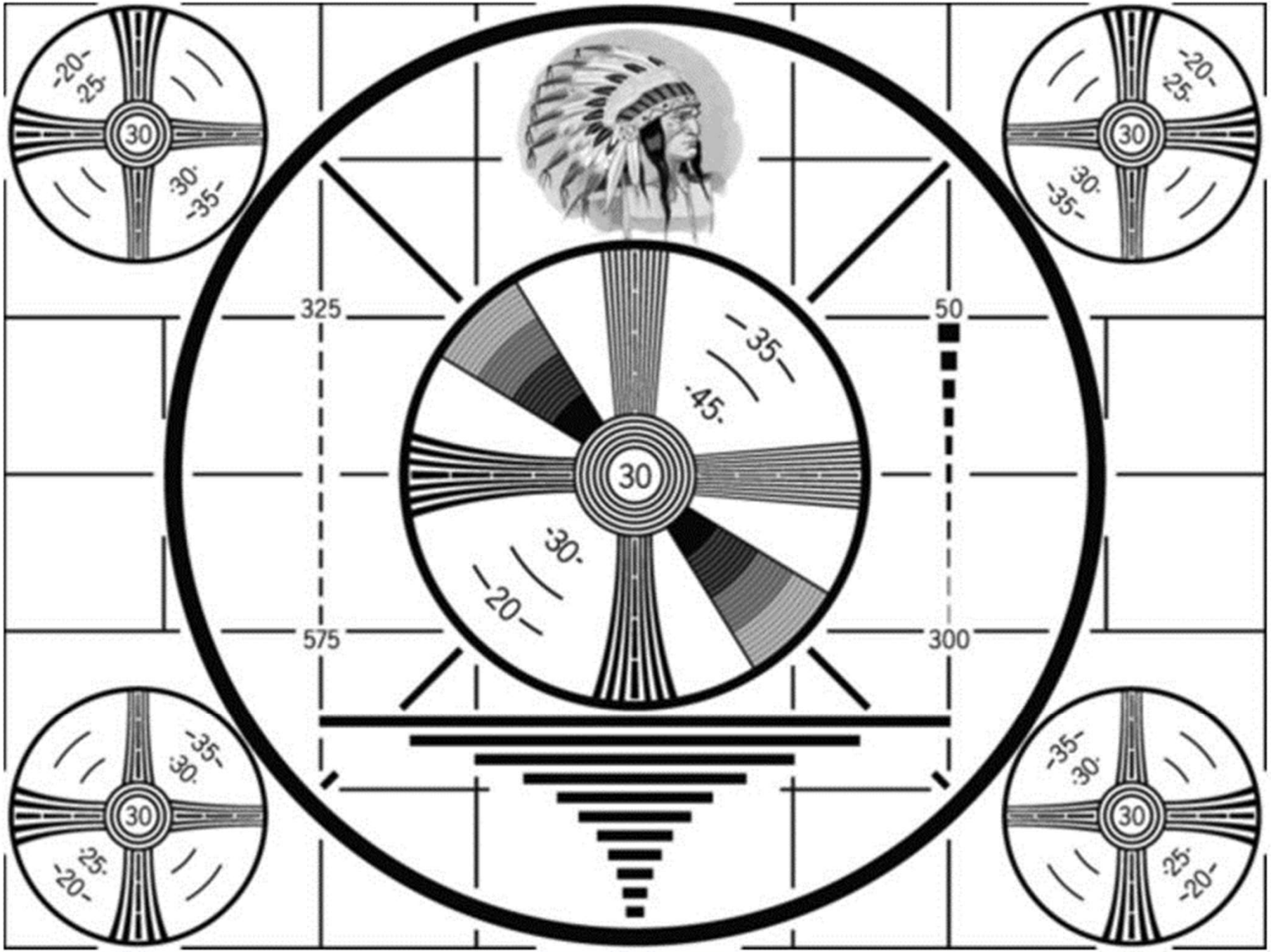
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THE OLD TESTAMENT MONARCHY BOOKS

1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTERS 13-14

- (13.1) The reign of Saul marked
- War with the Philistines begins (13.2-4)
  - Jonathan initiated hostilities
  - Saul alerted the Hebrews to coming retaliation
- Philistines attack (13.5-7)
- Saul's impulsiveness (13.8-14)
  - Saul grew impatient waiting for Samuel to appear & performed the sacrifice himself
  - Samuel immediately appeared & was furious
  - Saul offered three “reasons” for his rash decision
    - Samuel had said he would be there in seven days
    - Saul felt the pressure of soldiers deserting
    - The Philistines were assembling to attack Gilgal
  - Samuel told Saul he had sinned against God's commandments x

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTERS 13-14 *(cont'd)*

- **Saul's worsened challenge (13.15-23)**
  - **He didn't have much support to defend with**
  - **He had inadequate weaponry** x

1 SAM 13.17-18: PHILISTINES ATTACK

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTERS 13-14 *(cont'd)*

- **A peek at unfolding events in Chapter 14**
  - **Saul acts pious, but its effectiveness is questionable**
  - **The development of Jonathan**
  - **God's tremendous power applied once again to Israel's salvation** x

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTERS 13-14 *(cont'd)*

- **Yahweh carries the first victory (14.1-15)**
  - **Saul was not taking any action against the Philistines**
  - **Jonathan decides to attack the outpost at the Michmash pass**
    - **Jonathan encourages his armor bearer by two facts**
      - **The Philistines were uncircumcised**
      - **God does not need many to work a victory**
    - **Jonathan's plan depended on waiting on God's will**

JONATHAN'S APPROACH TO MICHMASH

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTERS 13-14 *(cont'd)*

- Yahweh carries the first victory (14.1-15)
  - Saul was not taking any action against the Philistines
  - Jonathan decides to attack the outpost at the Michmash pass
    - Jonathan encourages his armor bearer by two facts
      - The Philistines were uncircumcised
      - God does not need many to work a victory
    - Jonathan's plan depended on waiting on God's will
    - The plan worked as he had crafted it
  - The Israelites react to the initial victory (14.16-23)
    - The Gibeah watchtower noted mass confusion at the Philistine garrison
    - Saul called the high priest to consult with the Lord
    - Saul's approach to the Philistine garrison encouraged him
  - The Israelite victory was fully the work of God x

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTERS 13-14 *(cont'd)*

- **Saul's rash curse and order**
  - **(14.24) The curse**
    - **Saul shows little regard for his people in saying this**
    - **Also, the Philistines were God's enemies, not his**
  - **(vss 25-30) Jonathan falls under the curse**
    - **Ignorant of the curse, he ate some honey in the forest**
  - **(vss 31-35) The troops defile themselves**
    - **They didn't follow the Mosaic laws about draining the blood from slaughtered meat(Lev 19.26, Deut 12.16)**
  - **(vss 36-39) The oracle is silent**
  - **(vss 40-45) Jonathan's fate**
  - **(vs 46) The battle parts, Saul leaves the field** x

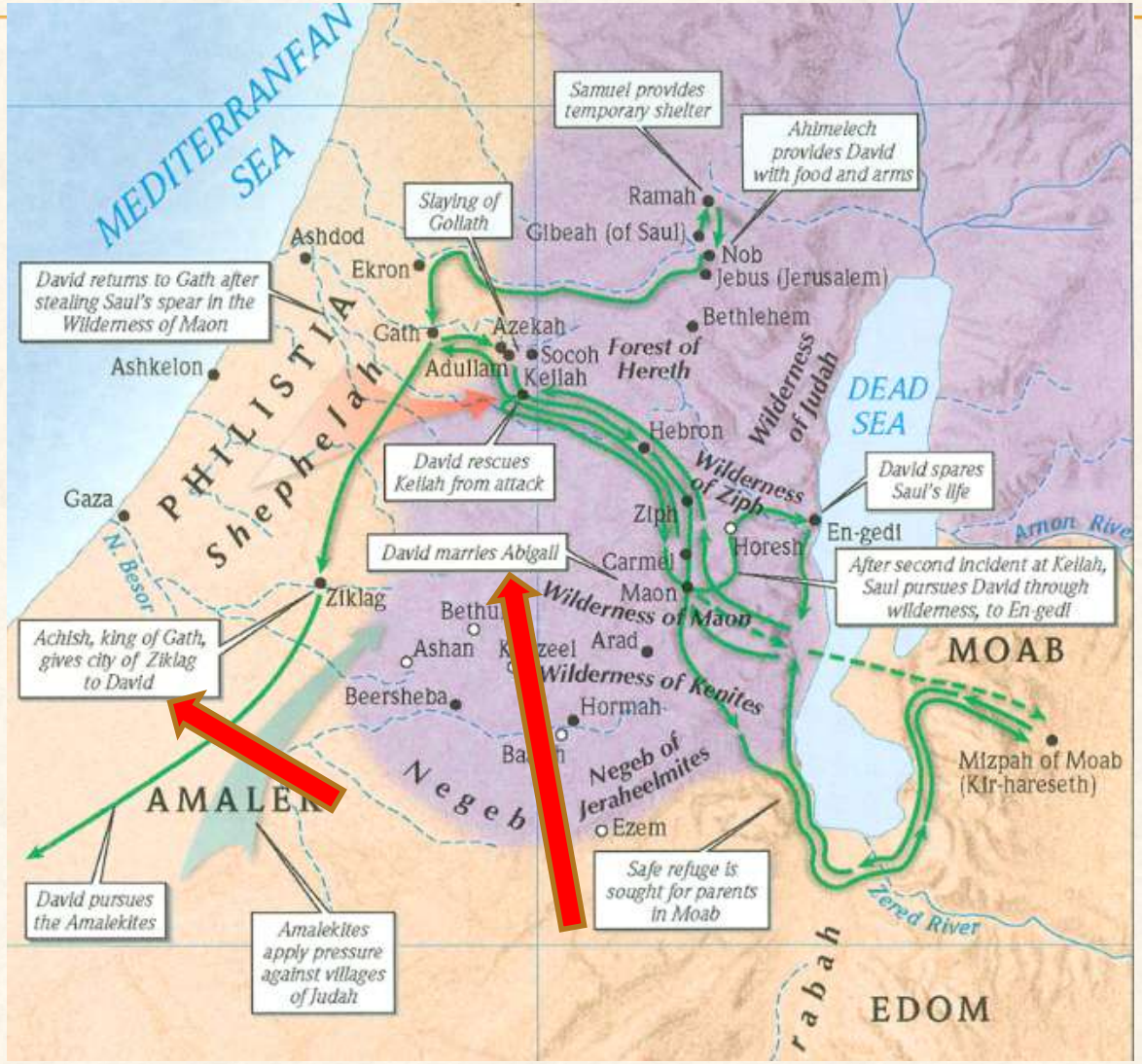
1 SAMUEL: CHAPTERS 13-14 *(cont'd)*

- **Summary of Saul's accomplishments**
  - **(vss 47-48) He freed Israel from nomad and other plunderers**
- **(vss 49-51) Saul's family listed**
- **(vs 52) A shift in military policy** x

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTER 15

- **Ch 15 is about Saul's battle with the Amalekites**
  - **Amalek was Esau's grandson by his son Eliphaz's concubine**
  - **His nomadic tribal group centered in the Negeb**
  - **Often raided westward and north westward, including to the coastal plain** x

REGION OF THE AMALEKITES



Holman QuickSource Guide to Understanding the Bible

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTER 15 *(cont'd)*

- **(15.1-3) God's charge to Saul about the Amalekites**
  - **Amalekites had blocked Israel's entry into Canaan**
  - **(Ex 17.14) God promised to wipe Amalekites out in the future**
    - **Amalekites had shown no repentance in 400+ years**
  - **Note Saul was charged to not spare a living thing**
    - **Same as God's commands entering Canaan (Deut 7.2, 20.17)**
- **Saul's disobedience to the command (15.4-9)** x

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTER 15 *(cont'd)*

- **God's reaction is expressed through Samuel**
  - **(vs 10-11) God informed Samuel of Saul's disobedience**
  - **(vss 12-13) Samuel found out that Saul was at Gilgal**
  - **(vs 14-15) Samuel cut him short with the famous pointed statement**
    - **Saul's two great mistakes**
      - **Shifted the blame to others**
      - **Used a religious pretext to excuse his disobedience**

FAITHFUL SERVANT PRINCIPLE:
Obedience is one form of worshipping God, but it is accepted by God ONLY when done as God dictated ! x

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTER 15 *(cont'd)*

- **God's reaction is expressed through Samuel** *(cont'd)*
  - **(vss 16-19) Samuel cut him off**
  - **(vss 20-21) Saul rebuffed Samuel's argument**
- **God's rejection of Saul**
  - **(vss 22-23) Samuel rebuffs Saul's contention that religious intention justifies selective obedience**
- **(vss 24-25) Saul realized his sin**
  - **(vss 26-29) Samuel rejected this request**
  - **(vss 30-31) Saul again asked Samuel to accompany him back to Gilgal, where he would sacrifice to "your" God** x

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTER 15 *(cont'd)*

- **Conclusion to Amalekite war**
  - **Disposal of Agag (15.32-33)**
    - **View 1**

      NASB, ESV
      "... Agag came to him cheerfully. And Agag said, 'Surely the bitterness of death is past.' "
      NIV
      "...Agag came to him confidently, thinking, 'Surely the bitterness of death is past.' "
    - **View 2**

      NRSV
      "... And Agag came to him haltingly. Agag said, 'Surely this is the bitterness of death' "
      NET
      "...Agag came to him trembling, thinking to himself, 'Surely death is bitter! ' "
    - **Word "cheerfully", translated "confidently", "cautiously", etc. is**

      Heb mah·ad·an·naw ==> bonds, bands
    - **vs 33: Samuel pronounces his death sentence based on his depraved killings, especially of children** x

1 SAMUEL: CHAPTER 15 *(cont'd)*

- **Separation of Samuel from Saul (15.34-35)**
  - **This separation is symbolic of God's permanent separation from Saul**
    - **As God had indicated to the people who demanded a king, Saul became disobedient & a disappointment to the Lord**
    - **Saul's mistakes stemmed from his flaws at the root level**
    - **In the end, Saul would become a castaway**
    - **God is omniscient - He knew this would happen, but regretted the event when it did** x