

A Disobedient King

1 Samuel 13:1-14:45

Big Idea : Saul was an impatient and impulsive king who made offerings in Samuel's place, took foolish oaths and was willing to kill his own son.

Aim : To teach that those who trust God will obey his word wholeheartedly and seek his will as of first importance.

Game – Pick & Choose

- Why did they say ‘no’ to certain challenges?
- Why did they choose to do some of them?
- In today’s true story from the Bible Saul was given instructions from God, but he only chose to obey some of them and Samuel had to complete the task for him.

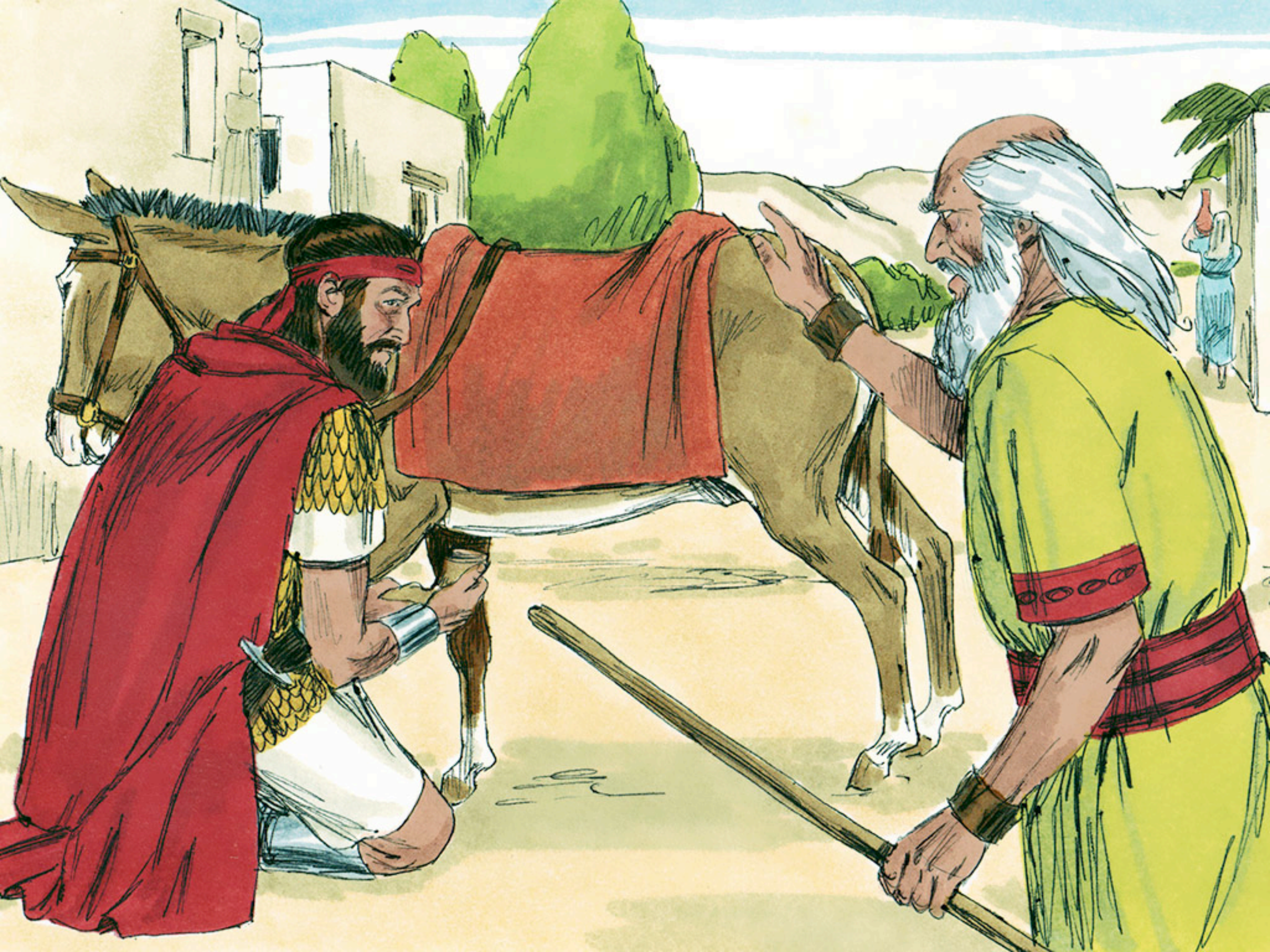
Intreo

<https://youtu.be/o1dkDvxQGHA>

read

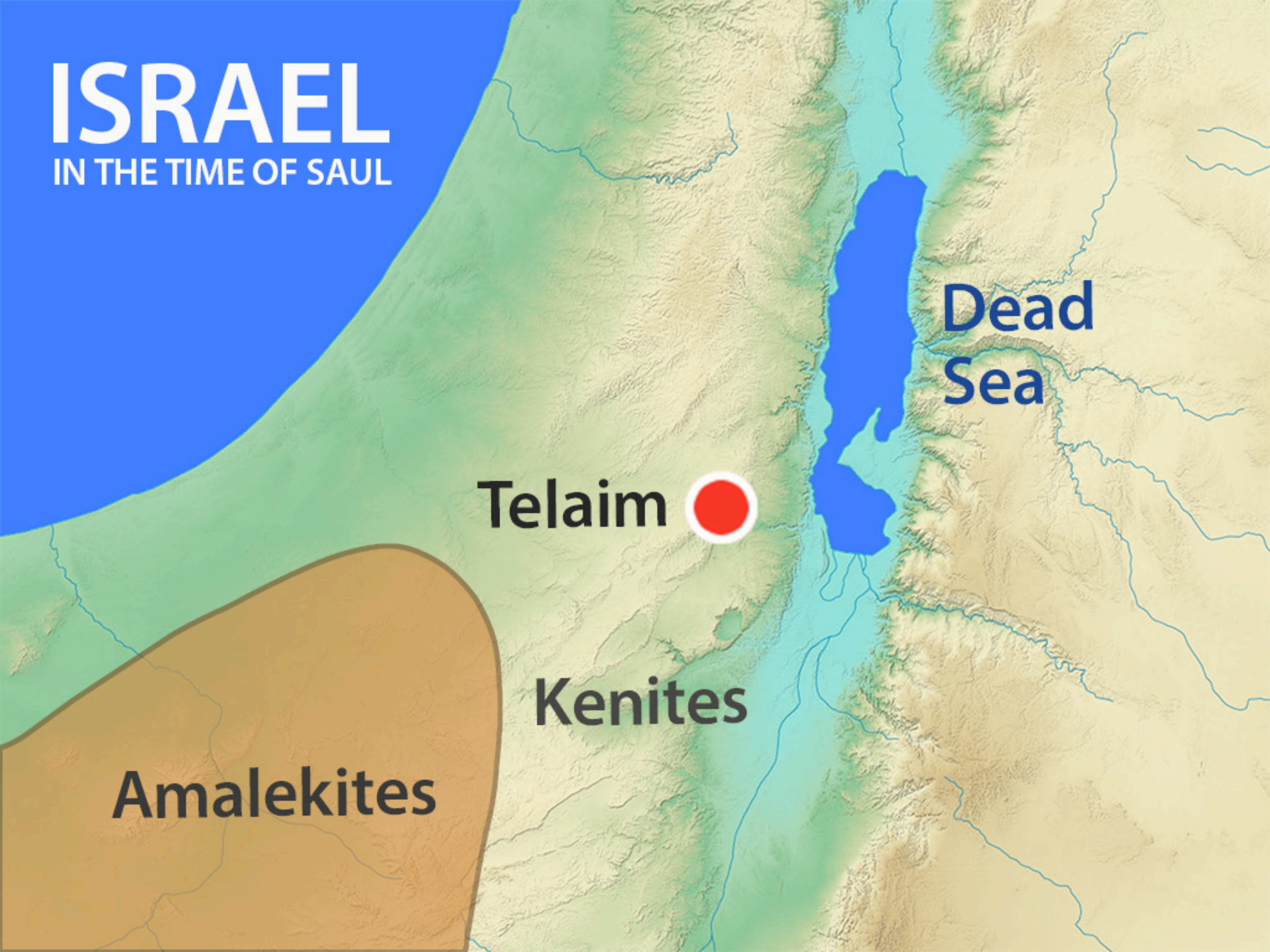
1 Samuel 13:1-14:45





ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF SAUL



Dead
Sea

Telaim

Kenites

Amalekites





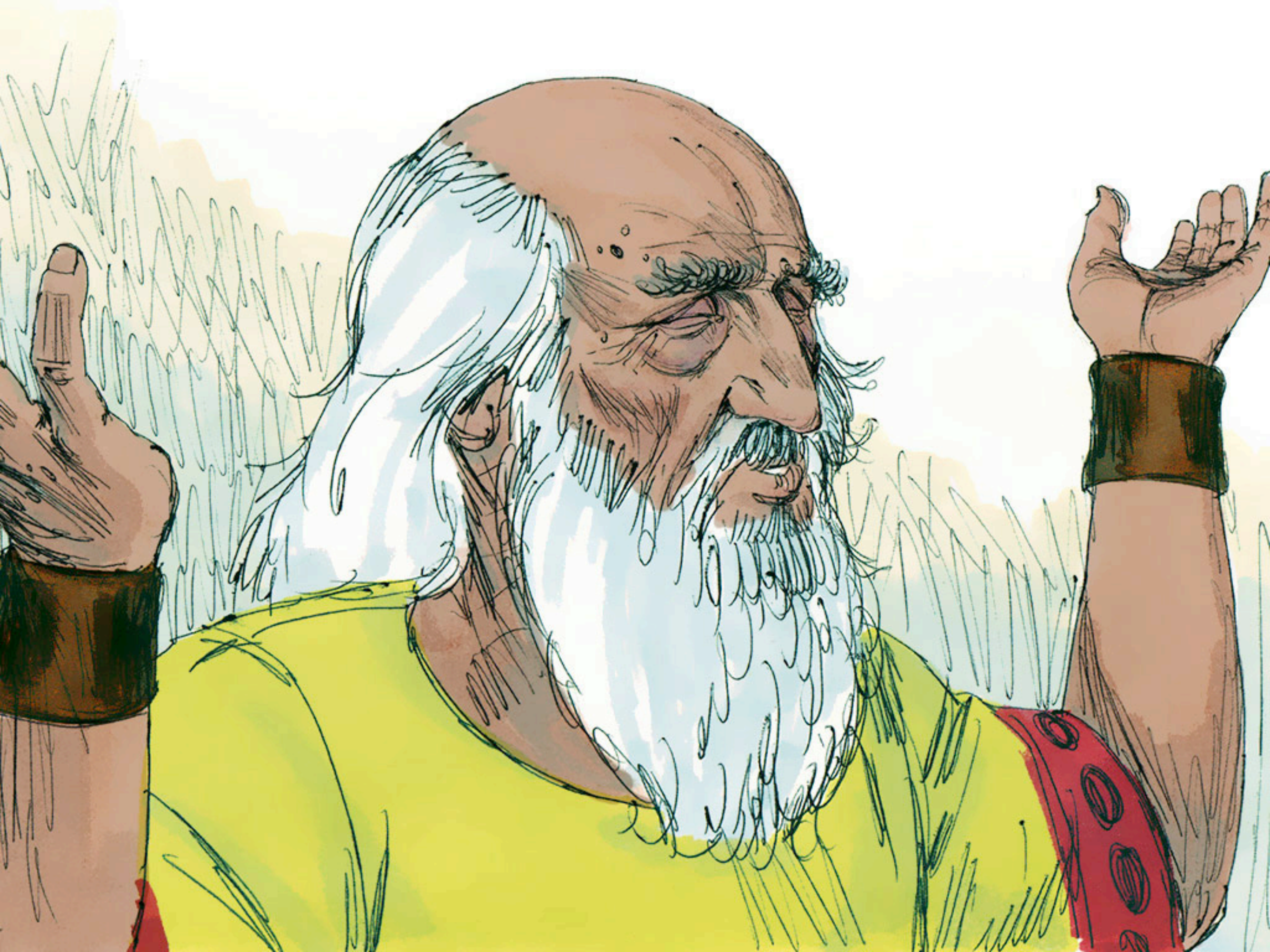












ISRAEL

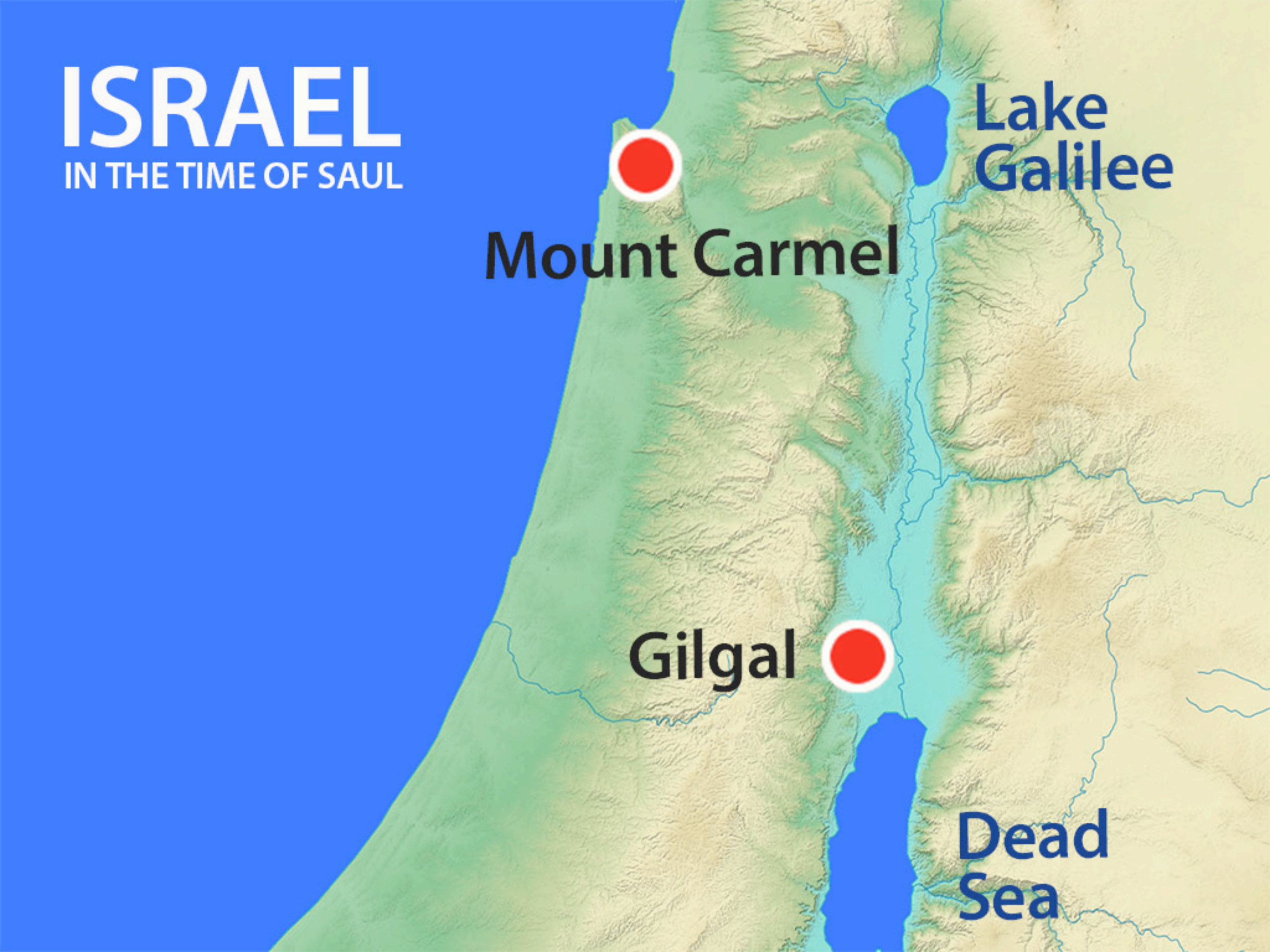
IN THE TIME OF SAUL

Mount Carmel

Lake
Galilee

Gilgal

Dead
Sea



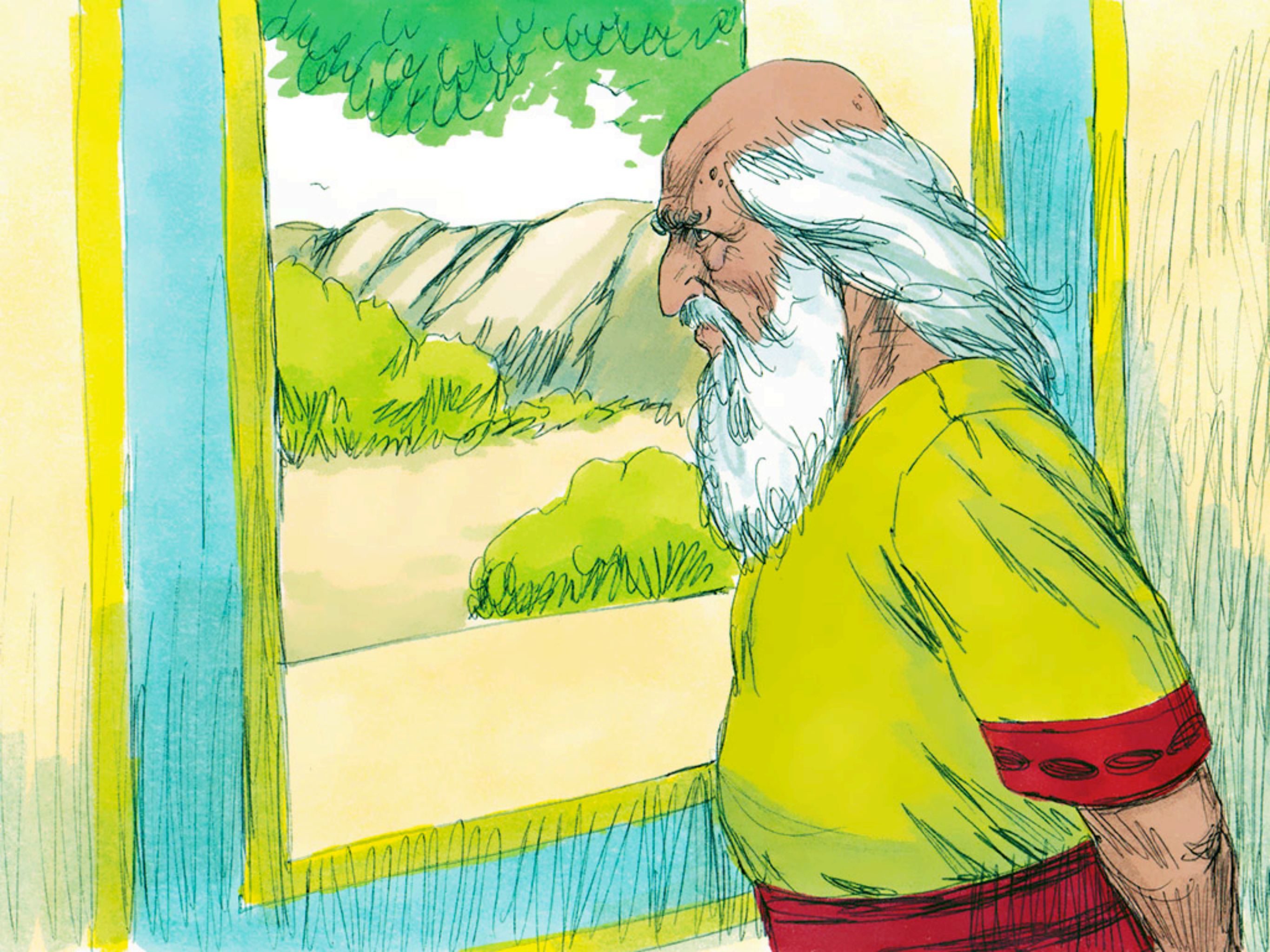








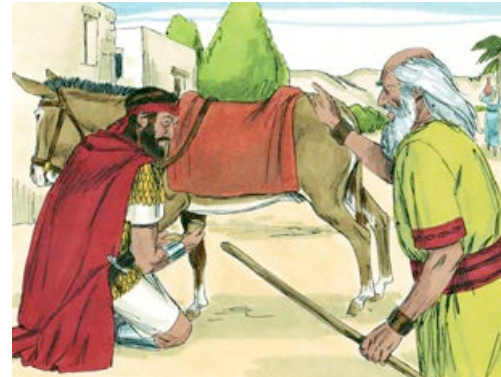




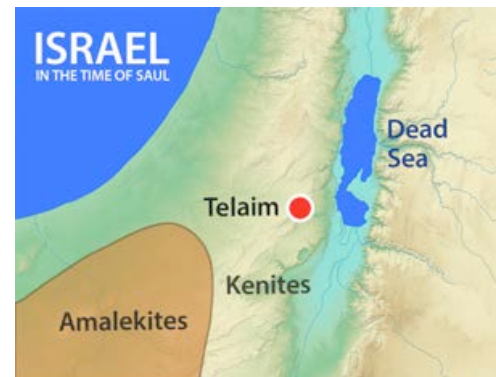
- 1 Saul was 30 years old when he became king. He gathered an army to defend the Israelites against Philistine raiders. Any strong or brave man was added to his fighters.



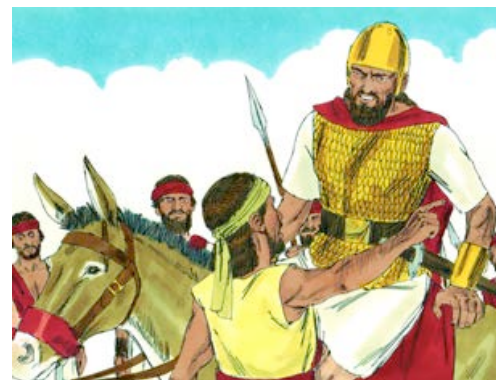
- 2 Samuel came to Saul with a message from God. 'The Lord is to punish the Amalekites for attacking and killing the Israelites as Moses led them through the wilderness. You are to attack and destroy them. You must also destroy all their animals too. No living thing is to be spared.'



- 3 Saul summoned his fighting men at Telaim – over 200,000 soldiers



- 4 They moved south towards Amalekite territory. On the way they warned the Kenites who lived nearby to stay away from the battle and they would be spared. The Kenites had shown kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt.



- 5 King Saul and his army set an ambush for the Amalekites in a ravine.



- 6 The Israelites then attacked the Amalekites as God had ordered.



- 7 As the Amalekites retreated, Saul's army chased them all the way to the border with Egypt. No one was spared.



- 8 They captured Agag the King of the Amalekites. But instead of following God's orders King Saul spared his life and took him as a prisoner.



-
- 9 They killed all the weak animals but disobeyed God's instruction and kept the best of the sheep and cattle. They decided to keep some as plunder and others were to be sacrificed to God.



-
- 10 The Lord spoke to Samuel. 'I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.'



-
- 11 Samuel was angry, and cried out to the Lord all that night.



-
- 12 Early in the morning, Samuel went to meet Saul. He was told that Saul had gone to Carmel to set up a monument in his own honour and then had gone on to Gilgal.



- 13 When Samuel found Saul the King said, 'I have carried out the Lord's instructions.' Samuel replied, 'What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?'



- 14 Saul explained that the animals had been plundered from the Amalekites but the best were to be sacrificed to God. Samuel replied, 'God sent you on a mission to totally destroy the wicked Amalakites. Why did you disobey and plunder?'



- 15 'But I did obey,' Saul protested. 'I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. The soldiers took the best sheep and cattle but the very best of these are for sacrifice.'



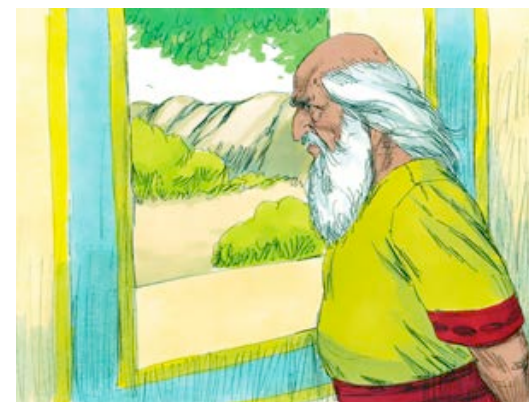
- 16 Samuel replied, 'Does the Lord delight more in sacrifices than obeying Him? To obey is better than sacrifice' For to go against what you are told is like the sin of witchcraft. Not to obey is like the sin of worshiping false gods. You have turned away from the Word of the Lord. So He has turned away from you being king.'
- 'I have sinned, Saul confessed. 'I was afraid of the people and listened to them.'



- 17 As Samuel turned to go, Saul took hold of part of his clothing, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, 'Today the Lord has torn the rule of Israel away from you and given it to someone who is better than you.' Samuel then executed Agag, king of the Amalekites himself.



- 18 Samuel returned to his home and never went to see Saul again.



Watch

<https://vimeo.com/169583019>

Excuses, excuses Game

Remind the children that in today's true story from the Bible Saul disobeyed Samuel's instructions from God. He made lots of excuses, but none of them were very good! This wasn't the first time Saul had ignored God's word and so God rejected Saul as king.

Memory verse

**Learn the actions
and win a bag of
sweets**

<https://youtu.be/UqVYdA5mvTY>

Discuss

https://youtu.be/xnX3Vr_z-0U

What instructions had God given Saul? (15:2-3) To attack the Amalekites and to utterly destroy them – all of the people and all of the animals.

Why did God want them to be totally destroyed? Because they would have influence the Israelites to worship idols and fall away from God.

Which instructions did Saul obey? (15:7-9)

What did Saul tell Samuel? (15:13, 15, 20-1, 24)

How did Samuel know that Saul had disobeyed? He heard the sheep and the cattle.

What did Samuel tell Saul? (15:26)

Did Saul repent of his sin and ask forgiveness? No he made excuses for himself.

What excuse did Saul give? We saved the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord.

What was Samuel's answer? "to obey is better than to sacrifice", God has rejected you as king.

Have you ever made excuses for your disobedience? ("He started it...", or "My dog ate my paper.. etc.)

What was Saul's next excuse? I disobeyed because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

Did Samuel accept this excuse? No.

Have you ever done something because your friend or your brother or sister pressured you into doing it?

Does that excuse you from the blame? No. You are still responsible for your own actions.

When Samuel turned to leave what did Saul do? He grabbed his robe and it tore.

What is God looking for more than outward forms of worship to Him? (Obedience)

What was the consequence to Saul's disobedience? (He would not be king over Israel)

What are some things God commands us to do that are hard to obey? Will you pray and ask Him to help you obey Him fully?

Let's pray and ask God to help us to always obey his instructions, and let's ask for his forgiveness for times when we haven't been obedient...

Quick

Watch

<https://youtu.be/p9xLj4NzrTA>

Pray

Father God – thank you for Jesus – our perfect King. – Thank you that he always – trusted and obeyed you perfectly. – Please help us – to follow him – and only him. – Amen.