

“To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice”
1 Samuel 14:47-15:9

Saul protests Samuel’s reproof (15:10-23).

- *Saul is enthusiastic about his obedience (13,15,20).
- *Saul again plays blame game in 15,21 just as he did in 13:11.
- *Samuel’s not buying excuses: The buck stops with the king (16-18). So-called ceremonial concerns just don’t fly (19-23)!

Saul pleads for Samuel’s favor (15:24-35).

- *Saul finally confesses his sin (24), and his weakness to “poll-pressure” (it didn’t use to be--11:12,13).
- *Ironically, what’s Saul’s biggest concern and plea (15:30)? He pleads 3x for Samuel to go w/him (if we include grabbing at robe)
- *Samuel’s deeply pained over Saul (11, 16:1), but he changes his mind and goes w/Saul (31). Why? Their relationship is over.

Sorrow over Saul by God—what do we make of it?

Is it OK for God to repent, relent, regret or change His mind)?
Note one Heb. word (nhm) in vss. 11,29, 35. See Gen. 6:6.

No RRR: 15:29, Num. 23:19, Ps.110:4, Jer. 4:28 (unconditional)
Yes RRR: 15:11,35, Jer. 18:6-11, 26:3, Ex. 32:14, Joel 2:11-14,
Jon. 3:3-10, 4:2, Ps. 106:45, 2 Sam. 24:16. Consider I Kgs. 21:
1-6, II Kgs. 20:20-29, Mk. 7:23-30 (conditional).

Solutions . . .

- Chalking terms up to mere anthropomorphisms solves little.
- God’s RRR never = He’s surprised or an “oops.”
- God’s RRR never suggests He changes, as He is immutable.
- RRR expresses God’s real emotion and His resolve to bring about needed correction.
- Passages stating no divine RRR possible are specific to a situation. God’s willingness to RRR is based on whether His initial plans were conditional or not (which may be unstated, thus statements like “who knows . . .” as in 2 Sam. 12:14,22).
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- Rejoice! God can actually be moved enough to change His directions based on our response / prayers (Js. 4:2b, 5:16)!

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