Follow His Plans Sun Am 3/7/21

Genesis 15:1-6 (NKJV)

**15**After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

**2**But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* Eliezer of Damascus?”

**3**Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!”

**4**And behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”

**5**Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

**6**And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

# Genesis 18:10-14 (NKJV)

**10**And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.”

(Sarah was listening in the tent door which *was* behind him.)

**11**Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; *and* Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

**12**Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”

**13**And the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear *a child,* since I am old?’

**14**Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

# Genesis 21:8-14 (NKJV)

**8**So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.

**9**And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

**10**Therefore she said to Abraham, “Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *namely* with Isaac.”

**11**And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham’s sight because of his son.

**12**But God said to Abraham, “Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

**13**Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he *is* your seed.”

**14**So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting *it* on her shoulder, he gave *it* and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba.

# 1 Samuel 15:1-26 (NKJV)

**15**Samuel also said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord.

**2**Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘I will punish Amalek *for* what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. **3**Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ ”

**4**So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah.

**5**And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

**6**Then Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

**7**And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

**8**He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

**9**But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all *that was* good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

**10**Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying,

**11**“I greatly regret that I have set up Saul *as* king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night.

**12**So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.”

**13**Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed *are* you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord.”

**14**But Samuel said, “What then *is* this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”

**15**And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”

**16**Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.”

**17**So Samuel said, “When you *were* little in your own eyes, *were* you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?

**18**Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’

**19**Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?”

**20**And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

**21**But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”

**22**So Samuel said: “Has the Lord *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.
**23**For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from *being* king.”

**24**Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

**25**Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.”

**26**But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.”

# Esther 3:1-6 (NKJV)

**3**After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who *were* with him.

**2**And all the king’s servants who *were* within the king’s gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

**3**Then the king’s servants who *were* within the king’s gate said to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the king’s command?”

**4**Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told *it* to Haman, to see whether Mordecai’s words would stand; for *Mordecai* had told them that he *was* a Jew.

**5**When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

**6**But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.