

[24] For who will pay heed unto you in this matter? But as his chelek is that goeth down to the milchamah (battle), so shall his chelek be that tarrieth by the kelim (supplies): their chelek they shall share alike.

[25] And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a chok (statute) and a mishpat for Yisroel unto this day.

[26] And when Dovid came to Tziklag, he sent of the shalal (plunder) unto the Ziknei Yehudah, even to his re'im (friends), saying, Hinei, a berakhah for you of the shalal (plunder) of the oyevim of Hashem;

[27] To them which were in Beit-El, and to them which were in Ramot of the South, and to them which were in Yatir,

[28] And to them which were in Aro'er, and to them which were in Siphmot, and to them which were in Eshtemoa,

[29] And to them which were in Rachal, and to them which were in the cities of the Yerachme'eli, and to them which were in the cities of the Keni,

[30] And to them which were in Chormah, and to them which were in Chor-Ashan, and to them which were in Atach,

[31] And to them which were in Chevron, and to all the mekomot (places) where Dovid himself and his anashim were accustomed to visit.

*T.N. I Shmuel is an amazing character study of the tragedy of King Saul. A slow breakdown in his character is carefully presented to us as a warning. We too could become*

*like him, jealous, cracking under pressure, not obeying G-d with fearful care and attention to detail, taking our eyes off G-d, off His Word, laying down carnal and arbitrary policies, getting out of step with the Ruach Hakodesh, no longer lifting up the glory of G-d but instead building a monument to ourselves [see 1Sm 15:12]. If we are become spoiled, and focus on our own prerogatives rather than G-d's, He may lose patience with us and replace us, if we abuse our privileges. G-d doesn't want to be obeyed our way; He wants to be obeyed His way. See 1Sm 15 and what happens if we rebel against this teaching. Saul's personal Meribah-Massah experience took place at Gilgal where his rebellion cost him his ministry [review 1 Sm. 13:8-14; Ex. 17:1-7; Num. 20:1-13; Ps. 106:32; 95:8; Deut. 33:8; MJ. 3:8.] Here we see Saul repeating in his kingly person the experience of the children of Israel in the wilderness. Every generation has a Kadesh-barnea opportunity to obey the L-rd and to follow Him and to gain new ground for the Kingdom of G-d, or else to hesitate; and, as the story of the wilderness illustrates, he who shrinks back, he who hesitates, is lost. Every generation is put to a test and a trial—either to march ahead in faith and take some ground for G-d, or to rebel and “grumble in your tents” and die with a faithless hardened heart in the wilderness. If even Moses, great though he was, fell short of the L-rd's holy expectations and was punitively replaced, how much more should we be careful not to rebel against G-d's Word. We see that Saul repeated the sins Israel committed when she*

*entered the Promised Land: Saul committed the sin of Achan (compare Josh.chp 7 and 1 Sm. 15:13-23) and Saul almost caused the death of Jonathan (compare Jephthah's daughter—Judg. 11:39 and 1Sm. 14:28-30). A minister should stay small in his own eyes (1Sm 15:17), unless he wants to be replaced. There is always a young David waiting in the wings to replace an old proud Saul. We see in Saul a man demonized and depressed and very much in need of, among other things, deliverance through music ministry. We see the importance of spiritual song in 1Sm 16:14-23. David's musical skill has left us a rich treasure to worship G-d, but it is also important to remember the demonic oppression of Saul and how it was abated by David's harp. Notice the importance of the ministry of music in 1Sm 18:10-12. 1Sm 16:17 indicates that the L-rd's musician must be an artist who can play well. The man of G-d is necessarily a refugee in a wicked and G-d-hating world, but in 1Sm G-d gives Dovid favor and guides his steps to safety. See chapter 19. In chapter 22 we see the wickedness of Saul, who has no respect for G-d's ministers. This is called anti-clericalism. Increasingly the world is filling up with Sauls and preparing for the Great Tribulation when the Brit Chadasha kehillah will be under a final massive anti-Moshiach assault of anticlericalism. See 1Sm 23:14. Notice that when Dovid seemingly lost everything at Ziklag, he 'strengthened himself in the L-rd his G-d' (1Sm 30:6). However, by contrast, on the verge of losing everything,*