

Chapter 15

Saul is commanded vtterly to deftroy the Amalecites. 8. But he taking Agag their king fpareth his life, & chiefe of the praye. 10. For which difobedience (20. though pretending that the beft thinges were referued for facrifice) he is depofed from his kingdom. 24. Then acknowledged his fault. 32. Samuel cutteth Agag in peeces, 35. and mourneth for Saul.

And Samuel faid to Saul: Our Lord fent me to annointe thee king ouer his people Ifrael; now therefore heare the voice of our Lord: ² Thus fayeth the Lord of hoftes: I haue recounted whatfoeuer Amalec hath done to Ifrael: how he refifted them in the way when they came vp out of Ægypt. ³ Now therefore goe, and ^a)ftrike Amalec, and ^b)defstroy al that he hath: fpare him not, and couet not ought of his thinges: but kil from man vnto woman, both childe & fuckling, oxe and fheepe, camel and affe. ⁴ Saul therefore commanded the people, and numbered them as it were lambes: two hundred thoufand footemen, & ten thoufand of the men of Iuda. ⁵ And when Saul was come vnto the citie of Amalec, he laid ambufhementes in the torrent. ⁶ And Saul faid to the Cineite: Goe ye, retyre and depart from Amalec: left perhaps I wrappe thee in with him. For thou haft done mercie with al the children of Ifrael, when they defcended out of Ægypt. And the Cineite departed out of the middes of Amalec. ⁷ And Saul ftroke Amalec from Heuila, vntil thou come to Sur, which is ouer againft Ægypt. ⁸ And he apprehended Agag the king of Amalec aliue: but al the comon people he flewe in the edge of the fword. ⁹ And Saul and the people fpared Agag, and the beft flockes of fheepe and heardes, and the garmentes and rammes, and al thinges, that were fayre, neither would they defstroy them: but whatfoeuer was

^a Amalec is ftricken when the flefh is chafticed by abftinence.

^b Defstroyed when the mind is refrained from vnclene cogitations. *S. Greg. li. 6. c. 1. in 1. Reg. 15.*

vile and refuse, that they destroyed. ¹⁰ And the word of our Lord was made to Samuel, saying: ¹¹ It repenteth me that I haue made Saul king: becaufe he hath forsaken me, & hath not fulfilled my wordes in worke. And Samuel was ftrooken fadde, and cried to our Lord al the night. ¹² And when Samuel had rifen in the night, to goe to Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, that Saul was come into Carmelus, and had erected to him felfe a triumphant arch, and returning was paffed, and gone into Galgal. Samuel therefore came to Saul, and Saul offered an holocaust to our Lord of the firft of the prayes, which he had brought from Amalec. ¹³ And when Samuel was come to Saul, Saul fayd to him: Bleffed be thou to our Lord, I haue fulfilled the word of our Lord. ¹⁴ And Samuel fayd: And what is this voice of flockes, which foundeth in myne eares, and of heardes, which I heare? ¹⁵ And Saul faid: They haue brought them from Amalec: for the people hath fpared the better fheepe and heardes that they might be immolated to our Lord thy God, but the reft we haue flaine. ¹⁶ And Samuel faid to Saul: Suffer me, and I wil fhew thee what our Lord hath fpoken to me this night. And he fayd to him: Speake. ¹⁷ And Samuel faid: When thou waft a little one in thyne owne eyes, ^a)was thou not made chief in the tribes of Ifrael? And our Lord annointed thee to be king ouer Ifrael, ¹⁸ and our Lord fent thee on the way, and fayd: Goe, and kil the finners of Amalec, and thou shalt fight againft them vntil the vtter destruction of them. ¹⁹ Why therefore haft thou not heard the voice of our Lord: but art turned to the praye, and haft done euil in the eies of our Lord? ²⁰ And Saul faid to Samuel: Yea I haue heard the voice of our Lord, and haue walked in the way by which our Lord fent me, and haue brought Agag the king of Amalec, and Amalec I haue flaine. ²¹ But the people tooke of the praye fheepe and oxen, the principal of thofe thinges which were flaine, to immolate to our Lord their God in Galgal. ²² And Samuel faid: Why wil

^a VVhen Saul was humble he was exalted, now being proud he is reiected.

our Lord haue holocaustes and victimes, and not rather that the voice of our Lord be obeyed? For ^a)BETTER IS OBEDIENCE THEN VICTIMES: and to harken rather then to offer the fatte of rammes. ²³ Because it is as it were the finne of inchantment, to refift: and as it were the wickednes of idolatrie, to refufe to obey. For as much therefore as thou haft reiected the word of our Lord, our Lord hath reiected thee that thou shalt not be king. ²⁴ And Saul faid to Samuel: I haue finned, because I haue tranfgreffed the faying of our Lord, and thy wordes, fearing the people, and obeying their voice. ²⁵ But now beare I befech thee my finne, and returne with me, that I may adore our Lord. ²⁶ And Samuel fayd to Saul: I wil not returne with thee, because thou haft reiected the word of our Lord, and our Lord hath reiected thee that thou fhalt not be king ouer Ifrael. ²⁷ And Samuel turned him felfe to depart: but he caught the hemme of his cloke, which alfo did rent. ²⁸ And Samuel faid to him: Our Lord hath rent the kingdom of Ifrael from thee this day, and hath deliuered it to thy neighbour better then thou. ²⁹ Moreouer the Triumpher in Ifrael wil not fpare, and he wil not be turned with repentance: for neither is he a man that he may repent. ³⁰ But he faid: I haue finned: howbeit now honour me before the ancientes of my people, and before Ifrael, and returne with me, that I may adore our Lord thy God. ³¹ Samuel therefore returning folowed Saul: and Saul adored our Lord. ³² And Samuel faid: Bring vnto me Agag the king of Amalec. And Agag was prefented to him very fatte, trembling. And Agag fayd: Doth bitter death thus feparat? ³³ And Samuel faid: As thy fword hath made wemen without children, fo fhall thy mother among wemen be without children. And Samuel hewed him into peeces before our Lord in Galgal. ³⁴ And Samuel departeth into Ramatha: but Saul afcended vnto his houfe into Gabaa. ³⁵ And Samuel faw Saul no more vnto the day of his death: but

^a By ordinarie facrifices, we geue our external goodes to God, by obedience we geue our felues. *S. Greg. li. 6. c. 2. in 1. Reg. 15.*

yet Samuel lamented Saul because it ^a)repented our Lord
that he had appointed him king ouer Ifrael.

^a God is faid improperly to repent, when he altereth the thing, that
he did before. *S. Amb. li. de Noe ca. 4.*