

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on
Sefer Shmuel: Perakim Tet Vav - Tet Zayin
by Zvi Grumet**

פרק ט"ו

1. According to שאול's opening comment to שמואל, what was שאול's primary function as king? What did this ספר earlier indicate as שאול's job (see יב:ב, ט:טז, ח:כ).
2. What criteria did שאול and the nation use for deciding what to keep and what to destroy in this battle? Compare שאול's actions with שמואל's brief instruction at the beginning of the פרק. See also יט דברים כה: יט.
3. שאול goes to כרמל after the battle (פסוק יב). There are two places in Israel named כרמל, one is south of חברון (כה:ב) while the other is way up in the north (by the modern city of חיפה). Given the location of the battle with עמלק (see map), to which of those do you think שאול went with all the sheep captured in the battle?
4. When שאול greets שמואל in פסוק יג, does he believe his own words?
5. שאול argues that he saved the sheep for קרבנות, which שמואל rejects. Where else do we see שמואל rejecting שאול's sacrifices?
6. Notice the similarities in language between פסוק יט and יד:לב-לד. What do you think might be the connection between these two passages?
7. Compare שאול's responses to שמואל in פסוק טז and in כ-כא. Which of שאול's statements are true, and which are "cover-up"s?
8. In פסוק כז, whose garment tore?
9. If שמואל was initially so against having שאול as a king, why was he so distraught when ה' told him that שאול's reign would come to a close?
10. שמואל intended to walk away from שאול but שאול pleaded with him to remain. What does שמואל decide? What long-term impact did that have?
11. Notice that פסוק לה seems to contradict פסוק כט (see also פסוק יא). Try to explain the apparent contradiction.
12. שאול seems to be rejected by God twice – once in פרק יג (before the battle with עמלק) and again in this פרק (after the battle with עמלק). Why is there a need for this twice? What do they have in common?

פרק ט"ז

1. In what ways is שמואל's behavior at the beginning of this פרק unusual?
2. Notice that ה' doesn't tell שמואל who to anoint until the last minute. Why? Does שמואל successfully figure it out on his own?
3. Who does שמואל initially think is the right son? Can you figure out why?
4. Does ישי know why שמואל came to his house? Why does שמואל not reveal to ישי the real purpose of his visit? At what point does the purpose of שמואל's become clear?
5. In what way is the anointing of דוד different from the anointing of שאול?

6. The ספר describes דוד with (פסוק יג אל דוד). Who else in this ספר was described in the same language?
7. What is happening to שאול as דוד is being anointed?
8. This פרק describes two different events happening to דוד. What do those two things have in common? In what ways are they very different from each other? How do they each describe דוד?
9. In פסוק יט, how did שאול know דוד's name?
10. How is דוד initially brought to שאול's attention? What ironies can you find in their meeting and in the role דוד plays for שאול?
11. In what ways is this פרק connected to the one which precedes it?