

1 Samuel 15 - God Rejects Saul as King

A. Battle against the Amalekites.

1. (1-3) God's heart in judgment

Gen 15:13-16 (NKJV)

13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land [that is] not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 "But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites [is] not yet complete."

Centuries before this the Amalekites were the first people to attack Israel after their escape from Egypt (Exodus 17).

Hundreds of years before, the LORD said He would bring this kind of judgment against Amalek: *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner; for he said, "Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation." (Exodus 17:14-16)*

Deut 25:17-19 (NKJV)

17 "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, 18 "how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you [were] tired and weary; and he did not fear God. 19 "Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess [as] an inheritance, [that] you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

v. (4-6) Saul prepares for the attack on the Amalekites.

Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart": Here, Saul shows wisdom and mercy in letting the Kenites go. God's judgment was not upon them, so he did not want to destroy them with the Amalekites.

v (7-9) Saul attacks the Amalekites.

Saul attacked the Amalekites: This was good and in obedience to the LORD. But it was a selective, incomplete obedience. First, Saul **took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.** God commanded Saul to bring His judgment on *all* the people, including the king.

v.9 unwilling to destroy what they wanted from the world

Everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed: They were careful to keep the best for themselves. We can imagine they were all pleased with what they gained after the battle.

"Partial obedience is complete disobedience

v (10-11) The Lord has not changed His mind- He regrets and sorrows for the loss of Saul

- Samuel's heart is broken because his heart is knit to those he ministers to

v. (12-13) Saul greets Samuel.

He set up a monument for himself: Saul wasn't grieved over his sin.

- This also shows that Saul was not the same humble man who once had a humble opinion of himself (1 Samuel 9:21) and who once hid among the equipment out of shyness (1 Samuel 10:22)

V.18 Now the LORD sent you on a mission . . . Why did you not obey the voice of the LORD? This was the *most apparent* of Saul's sins. God gave him a specific command and he directly disobeyed it.

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. Religious observance without obedience is empty before God.

Ps 51:16-17 (NKJV)

16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give [it;] You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry: A rebellious, stubborn heart rejects God just as certainly as someone rejects God by occult practices or idolatry.

v.23 in chapter 13 Saul was told that he lost a dynasty, now he is told that he lost his throne

v (24-25) Saul disobeyed because of fear of the people

- Politicians with polls
- Pastors with what is popular

v.30 Saul's heart is not be disgraced before the people

And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death:

Nevertheless, Samuel mourned for Saul

Far reaching consequences- the book of Esther

Close with 2 Peter 3