

1 Samuel Lesson 22 Saul's Call To Battle and Saul's Disobedience

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

The Amalekites: The Amalekites were desert nomads descended from Esau. They inhabited the desert south of Judah. They were longstanding enemies of the Israelites dating back to the time of Moses (Exodus 17:8-16)

Plunder: Often times when the Israelites conquered an enemy, Yahweh would share the plunder with them. Other times all the plunder belonged to the Lord.

King's monument: Ancient Near Eastern Kings often celebrated a victory by erecting a monument. These monuments would give the details of the battle and proclaim the conquering monarch to be king over the conquered territory. The monuments tended to glorify the king, but at times mentioned the deity the king worshiped.

Key Words:

utterly destroy: Strong's H2763 "charem" annihilate, destroy completely. It also has the meaning of "devoted thing" or "ban" and is used in connection with something devoted to destruction because God deems it accursed.

Read Exodus 17:8-16, Deuteronomy 25:17-19 and 1 Samuel 15:1-12

1. What do you learn about the history of Israel and the Amalekites from Exodus 17:8-16 and Deuteronomy 25:17-19. What does God say He will use the Israelites to do to the Amalekites?

2. According to 1 Samuel 15:1-3 what does The Lord tell Saul through the prophet Samuel to do and why?

Application: It took 400 years from the time God pronounced judgment on Amalek until He ordered Saul to carry it out. How can knowing this be an encouragement when waiting for God to deal with our enemies?

3. Describe Saul's actions in 1 Samuel 15:4-9 as he carried out God's commands. Which actions were in obedience to the Lord's instructions? Which were in disobedience?

Application: Like Saul, we often find ourselves obeying some of the commands of God and ignoring others. What are some commands you find easy to obey? What are some commands you find difficult to obey and why?

4. According to 1 Samuel 15:10-11 what did the Lord reveal to Samuel? What was Samuel's reaction to the words of the Lord?

5. In 15:12 what further information did the Lord reveal to Samuel about what Saul had done? What does Saul's action here reveal about Saul's character and his perspective on whose battle it was? What does Samuel's response reveal about his character and his relationship with the Lord?

Application: Which of the 4 stated themes of 1 Samuel do you see revealed in 1 Samuel 15:1-9?

