

1 Samuel 15

Saul's Rejection

1. 15:1-5 – The Destruction of Amalek

- a. 1 - *"the voice of the words of the LORD"* – Deu 8:20, 1Sa 12:14-15, Psa 29, 106:25
- b. 2 - *"I remember..."* - Do you? Exo 17:8-16, Num 14:45, 24:20, Deu 25:17-19
- c. The sins of the Amalekites were wicked, violent, idolatry - Deu 12:31-32, 18:9-14
- d. 3-5 - Called a *"text of terror"* but is a text of divine justice against sin.
 - i. None are righteous, all born in Adam die. Rom 3:10
 - ii. God is the only one who determines who lives and dies (we can't).
 - iii. Women and children also participated in the wickedness.
 - iv. Young can grow to give remembrance to evil, rise up/restore, revenge, etc.
 - v. God the Judge of all who are guilty or get glory – babies not guilty of sins.
 - vi. Little ones died in the flood, Sodom/Gomorrah, and when Jesus returns.
 - vii. All death reminds of our mortality, sin, and brevity of life before judgment.

2. 15:6-12 – Saul's Disobedience

- a. 6-8 – Saul shows mercy to Kenites, and destroys Amalekites from... Gen 25:18
- b. 9 - *"But Saul and the people spared...all that was good"* - None is good, but what God says
- c. *"every thing ... vile and refuse"* – God said destroy even the pleasant and valuable.
- d. 11 - *"It repenteth me..."* – His disobedience gives grief to the point of change of mind
- e. *"hath not performed my commandments"* – 1 Sam 13:13, 14:29,
- f. *"he cried unto the LORD all night"* – cf 12:23; Samuel intercedes for Saul all night.
- g. 12 - *"he set him up a place"* – In Carmel (south), a monument to honor his victory.

3. 15:13-23 – Saul's Lack of Judgment

- a. 13 - *"I have performed the commandment"* - Saul thinks he has obeyed (judgment gone)
- b. 14-15 - *"They have... the people"* - He follows the people, but not God (see v11)
- c. *"the best of... to sacrifice"* – two wrongs: judge by appearance, end justifies the means
- d. 16-17 - *"the LORD anointed thee king over Israel"* - You are subject to God not Israel.
- e. 18-19 - God said to destroy them all, why did you disobey him?
- f. 20 - Religious self-justification: *"I have obeyed"* – Denying responsibility/ guilt.
 - i. *"I have gone the way"* – Diminished instruction. 'Did the important part'
 - ii. *"I have brought Agag"* – Changed instruction. 'Did what I thought was better'
 - iii. *"I have utterly destroyed ..."* – Ignores instruction, except head and tail.
- g. 21 - *"But the people... to sacrifice"* - Blames the people (and God?) 'Did it for your God'
- h. The same lack of judgment as people who blame God as immoral for this chapter.
- i. 22 - *"To obey is better than sacrifice"* – Saul's failure wrapped up in his wrong sacrifice
- j. *"hearken (to listen is better) than the fat of rams"* – Hear the words (faith) before you do
 - i. Ch. 13 Saul tried to offer sacrifice to God without humility and faith.
 - ii. Ch. 14 Saul was going to sacrifice his son without mercy.
 - iii. Ch. 15 Saul tried to sacrifice spoils without judgment/obedience.
- k. Religion, rules, generosity are nothing w/o rejoicing in the truth –1Co 13:3-6
- l. 23 - *"rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft"* - Both open rejection of the words of the LORD

- m. *"stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry"* - Saul was rebellious and stubborn, but thought himself religious → Samuel says these sins lead to death (e.g. Amalek)

4. 15:24-29 - Saul Rejected as King

- a. 24 - *"I have sinned"* - as said Pharaoh, Balaam, Achan, Shimei, Job, Judas, and David
- b. 25 - *"pardon my sin"* - Not true repentance. He fails to see his sins and consequence.
 - i. Unrepentance wants the pain of guilt to stop - Exo 10:16-17, 2 Cor 7:10
- c. 26 - *"thou hast rejected the ... LORD... the LORD hath rejected thee"* - Saul not God's king.
- d. 28 - *"The LORD hath rent the kingdom"* - Saul wants power not peace - Isa 59, Ro 3:17
- e. Stubborn religious Israel rejects the Word of God, a kingdom removed - Matt 21:43
- f. Steve condemns stubborn disobedient Israel as betrayers and murderers - Acts 7:51
- g. 29 - *"Strength of Israel"* - not Saul, not a throne, but the LORD - Ps 68:34, Joel 3:16
- h. *"will not lie nor repent"* - Num 23:19, 2 Tim 2:13, Titus 1:2, Heb 6:18

5. 15:30-35 - Separation of Samuel and Saul

- a. 30 - Pardon request now gone. He tries to preserve honor/face/appearance Jn 12:43
- b. 31 - Samuel does not pardon, but Saul worshipped "thy God" before the people.
- c. 32 - Samuel finishes the task Saul should have in obedience to God.
 - i. *"Surely, the bitterness of death is past"* - He thinks the time of revenge is over.
 - ii. Esther 3:1 - Wicked Haman who wanted to kill Israel was an Agagite.
- d. 33 - The reason God wanted Agag dead = his cruelty, violence, wickedness, evil.
- e. 34-35 - Samuel mourns for Saul matching the LORD's repentance. Saul does not.
- f. This repentance is not against his word but a change of mind due to grief. Pro 17:25