



THE VOICE OF THE LORD

Shema' — To listen, hear, understand, and respond in obedience

- ✱ **Genesis 22:17-18** — Abraham shema's God's voice
- ✱ **Exodus 19:5** — Israel must shema the voice of God
- ✱ **Numbers 14:22** — Israel in the wilderness refuses to shema God's voice
- ✱ **Deuteronomy 28:2** — Blessing & curse depends on whether Israel will shema God's voice
- ✱ **Joshua 24:24** — Israel promises to shema God's voice
- ✱ **Judges 2:1-2** — Israel does not shema God's voice
- ✱ **1 Samuel 8:19-20** — The people refuse to shema Samuel's voice
- ✱ **1 Samuel 12:14-15** — The king's success depends on whether he will shema God's voice

1 Samuel 15:1, And Samuel said to Saul, “The LORD sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore shema the words of the voice of the LORD.

A Note on God’s Judgement

1 Samuel 15:3, Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.

- ✱ **Isn't God supposed to be a God of love?** Since God is all loving, he must be just
- ✱ **Is this genocide?** God shows no partiality; judgment is always on sin, not ethnicity
- ✱ **What about the children?** The Bible uses hyperbole to denote the completion of a task

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1 Samuel 15:9-11, But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction. The word of the LORD came to Samuel: “I regret that I have made Saul king...”

1 Samuel 15:12, Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself...

1 Samuel 15:13-21

SAUL I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

SAMUEL What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I shema?

SAUL *They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep...and the rest we have devoted to destruction.*

SAMUEL *Stop! I will tell you what the LORD said to me this night.*

SAUL *Speak.*

SAMUEL *Why then did you not shema the voice of the LORD?*

SAUL *I have shema'ed the voice of the LORD. I have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. But the people took the spoil..."*

SAMUEL *Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in to shema the voice of the LORD? Behold, to shema is better than sacrifice..."*

Pharaoh

"I have sinned; the LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. Plead with the LORD, for there has been enough of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."

Saul

*"I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because **I feared the people and shema'ed their voice.** Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the LORD... I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the LORD your God."*

David

"I have sinned against the LORD"

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The Hope:

1 Samuel 13:14, *The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people*

1 Samuel 16:7, *For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*

Psalms 40:6-8, *In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required... I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.*

The Fulfillment:

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*

Hebrew 10:16, *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts...*

The Only Response

Psalms 51:10, 16-17, *Create in me a clean heart, O God... For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

1. *Where are you relying on effort instead of Jesus?*
2. *Where do you need to ask God for a clean heart?*