

In Search of a King 1-2 SAMUEL

1 Samuel 15:1-35

Rejection of King Saul

Rejection of Saul as King

1. A Disturbing Vengeance

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."

(Exodus 17:14)

¹⁷ "Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, ¹⁸ how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. ¹⁹ Therefore it shall come about when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.

(Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

Rejection of Saul as King

1. A Disturbing Vengeance

- "holy war" (*herem*) was a temporal form of God's just judgment against His enemies
- it prefigures God's ultimate judgment against unrepentant, idolatrous enemies

Rejection of Saul as King

2. A Puzzling Repentance

➤ Does God change His mind?

- in His sovereign purpose and omniscience, God never changes His mind
- it communicates God's real displeasure and grief over sin and disobedience

Rejection of Saul as King

2. A Puzzling Repentance

➤ *Implication*

- God experiences (“feels”) genuine grief and displeasure over our disobedience
- God’s “grief/regret” leads to His judgment

Rejection of Saul as King

3. A Deceptive Disobedience

- taking comfort in partial obedience based on human reasoning
- masking disobedience by religious ritual and outward worship

Rejection of Saul as King

➤ Principle: *“to obey is better than sacrifice”*

- outward acts of worship have no intrinsic value to God
- obedience reveals a heart that treasures and trusts God