

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 15

1 SAMUEL 15:1-3 - THE LORD'S PUNISHMENT AGAINST AMALEK

AMALEK HAD DONE EVIL TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AS THEY JOURNEYED TOWARDS THE PROMISE LAND:

DEUTERONOMY 25:17-19 - "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.



THE COMMAND OF THE LORD WAS TO "UTTERLY DESTROY" THE NATION. INCLUDING ANIMALS.

1 SAMUEL 15:4-9 - SAUL'S BATTLE AGAINST AMALEKITES

V. 6 - SAUL GAVE WARNING TO THE KENITES TO FLEE BEFORE THEIR ATTACK.

"KENITES": MOSES' FATHER-IN-LAW JETHRO WAS A KENITE (JUDG. 1:16), AND HE AND HIS SON HAD BEEN HELPFUL TO THE ISRAELITES (EX. 18; NUM. 10:29-32). DEPART: ... LEST I DESTROY YOU WITH THEM. THE KENITES HAD SETTLED AMONG THE AMALEKITES. (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 1 SAM. 15:6)

V. 7 - "SAUL DEFEATED THE AMALEKITES..."

V. 8 - SAUL "CAPTURED AGAG THE KING OF THE AMALEKITES ALIVE" BUT DESTROYED ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE

V. 9 - SAUL SPARED "BEST OF SHEEP/OXEN/FATLINGS/LAMBS AND ALL THAT WAS GOOD..."

1 SAMUEL 15:10-12 - THE LORD REGRETS MAKING SAUL KING

V. 12 - SAUL HAD RAISED UP A 'MONUMENT' FOR HIMSELF..."

Q - AT THIS JUNCTURE, WHAT CAN WE GATHER ABOUT SAUL'S CHARACTER? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE LORD'S "REGRET"? WHY DO YOU THINK SAMUEL RESPONDS THE WAY HE DOES?

1 SAMUEL 15:13-19 - SAMUEL CONFRONTS SAUL

V. 13 - SAUL CLAIMS TO HAVE CARRIED OUT THE COMMAND OF THE LORD

V. 15 - SAUL TRIES TO JUSTIFY HIS DISOBEDIENCE TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

V. 17-18 - SAMUEL REMINDS SAUL OF NOT JUST THE SPECIFIC COMMAND OF THE LORD IN THIS INSTANCE, BUT ALSO SAUL'S JOURNEY FROM A "NOBODY" TO KING.

1 SAMUEL 15:20-21 - SAUL'S JUSTIFICATION

V. 20 - SAUL BOASTS IN HIS PARTIAL OBEDIENCE "I DID OBEY THE VOICE OF THE LORD AND WENT ON THE MISSION..."

V. 21 - SAUL BLAMES THE PEOPLE FOR HIS DISOBEDIENCE. (CP. ADAM & EVE)

Q - WHEN WE SEE SAUL'S ATTEMPT AT JUSTIFYING WHY HE DISOBEYED AND HIS SHIFT OF BLAME/RESPONSIBILITY, DO WE SEE OURSELVES AND OUR TENDENCIES IN DEALING WITH SIN AT ALL? WHAT COULD SAUL HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

1 SAMUEL 15:22-23 - THE LORD REJECTS SAUL - GOD DESIRES OBEDIENCE!

1 SAMUEL 15:24-26 - SAUL'S CHANGE OF HEART

V. 24-25 - SAUL BEGS SAMUEL TO REMAIN WITH HIM AND RETURN TO THE PEOPLE TOGETHER. HOWEVER, FOR SAUL, THESE ACTIONS ARE TOO LITTLE TOO LATE.

IT WOULD BE WRONG TO INTERPRET THIS ENCOUNTER AS GOD REJECTING SOMEONE IF THEY SIN OR DON'T TURN BACK TO HIM IN TIME - FOR SAUL HAD BEEN GIVEN, EVEN IN THIS INCIDENT, MULTIPLE CHANCES TO BE HONEST, ADMIT WRONG, ETC. (NOT TO MENTION HOW THE LORD HAS DEALT WITH SAUL WHEN HE HAS MADE BAD CHOICES UP TO THIS POINT). IN V. 14 SAMUEL ASKS "WHAT THEN IS THE BLEATING OF THE SHEEP..." AND IN V. 19 SAMUEL ASKS AGAIN "WHY THEN DID YOU NOT OBEY THE VOICE OF THE LORD..." SAUL COULD HAVE REPENTED IN THESE MOMENTS, BUT HE INSISTED ON LYING AND HOLDING HIS PRIDE. SAUL IS NOT REJECTED AS KING UNTIL AFTER THESE CHANCES (V. 23). WHO KNOWS IF THE LORD WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN HIM HAD HE ACTED DIFFERENTLY?

CP. GENESIS 3 V. 9 GOD ASKS "WHERE ARE YOU" V. 11 - WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED...HAVE YOU EATEN FROM TREE WHICH I COMMANDED YOU NOT TO EAT? V. 13 - (THE LORD TO EVE) "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?"

1 SAMUEL 15:27-29 - KINGDOM "TORN" FROM SAUL.

V. 28 - "ONE WHO IS BETTER THAN YOU." WE WILL MEET THIS INDIVIDUAL IN 1 SAMUEL 16

V. 29 - AT THIS POINT SAUL CAN BE SURE THAT THIS WORD OF THE LORD WILL NOT CHANGE.

1 SAMUEL 15:30-31 - SAUL PLEADS AGAIN WITH SAMUEL

THOUGH SAUL HAS BEEN REJECTED IN GOD'S EYES AS KING, SAMUEL STILL HONORS HIM AS THE KING BEFORE THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE. HIS REPLACEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED, AND UNTIL SUCH TIME, HE IS THE "ANOINTED ONE". IT DOES APPEAR THAT SAUL HAD TO DO SOME PLEADING WITH SAMUEL FOR THIS TO HAPPEN (V. 30 "PLEADED AGAIN...", V. 31 - SAMUEL "FINALLY AGREED"). WE ALSO SEE SAUL'S REAL REASON FOR WANTING SAMUEL TO RETURN WITH HIM. IT WAS NOT COMPLETELY NOBLE (AS IT APPEARS TO BE IN V. 25) BUT WAS TO SAVE FACE BEFORE THE PEOPLE (V. 30)

1 SAMUEL 15:32-35 - SAMUEL KILLS AGAG. LEAVES SAUL'S PRESENCE