

I SAMUEL 15; March 30; Saul's Failure to Destroy Amalek

ANALYSIS:

1. Why did the LORD want Saul to utterly destroy Amalek?

2. Why did Saul warn the Kenites that he was going to wipe out the Amalekites? _____
3. Who did Saul blame when Samuel confronted him about not completely obeying the LORD? _____
4. What was the real reason that Saul disobeyed the plain commandment of the LORD regarding Amalek?

5. How did Saul's and Samuel's relationship change permanently from that day forward? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Even after Samuel had told Saul that he had done evil in the sight of LORD by not destroying everything that the Amalekites had, Saul continued to insist that he had really obeyed the LORD in utterly destroying the Amalekites (v 20).

Saul went on to blame the people for saving alive the best of the spoil and animals. Saul weakly suggested that they had kept the best of the animals in order to sacrifice them to the LORD. Samuel's response to Saul sets the LORD'S priorities very clear: The LORD wants obedience more than sacrifice; and rebellion against the LORD'S commandments is as bad as the sins of witchcraft and idolatry. "Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (vv 22-23).

Saul feared the people and ended up rejecting the voice of the LORD and disobeying the LORD'S commandments. And the LORD rejected him as king of Israel. Saul's sin cost him dearly for his kingdom, his family, and his own soul. Where are you rejecting the voice of the LORD today?

Where are you making excuses, like Saul, for why you do not need to follow the LORD'S commandments? What has the LORD revealed to you that you are not doing? Let us confess our sins to the LORD today and obey him in all that he has revealed to us!

HELP:

1. Because Amalek came out and fought with Israel after they had left Egypt (Ex 17:8) and attacked Israel from behind when Israel was faint and weary (Duet 25:17-19).
2. Because Saul did not want the Kenites destroyed along with the Amalekites for the Kenites had showed kindness to Israel when they came up out of Egypt (v 6).
3. The people (vv 15, 21).
4. Saul feared the people (v 24).
5. Samuel never went to see Saul again (v 35).