

1 Samuel 15: Deliberate Disobedience/ A Pile of Agag

1 Samuel Overview Chapters 1-14

- **Hanna dedicates** Samuel to the Lord
- **Priests:** Eli, Hophni and Phinehas or “Tadpole and Darkness”
- **Samuel** is **Judge, Prophet** and **Priest** over Israel
- Rejecting God, the people want a king to be like other nations and are told the consequences
- **Blessing:** The king and people must serve and be led by God
- Saul is made King but leans on his own understanding as his pride increases
- **Jonathan:** A picture of a true believer trusting God
- Samuel tells Saul his kingdom **will not last** because of Saul’s three big mistakes
 1. Offers incense in place of the priest (presumption)
 2. No honey for hungry soldiers (misuse of authority)
 - 3. Chapter 15: Saul’s last big mistake; deliberate disobedience**

1 Corinthians 10 :11 Now these things happened to them **as an example**, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed that he does not fall**.

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our **instruction**, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have **hope**.

- 1 Samuel: Written 3000 years ago for...
- An Example, Warning, Instruction, Perseverance, Encouragement and Hope
- **Three enemies:** World, Devil, and **the Flesh**
- **Chapter 15:** A picture of our battle with the **flesh**; our old

nature apart from Christ

Flesh (Old Sin Nature): Galatians 5:17 (Read) For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: **immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing,** and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- Battle within against our old nature
- **"Nothing good** dwells in me...my flesh" Nothing.

Psalm 51:5 (David) Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

- There's a little good in everyone? Man's **Total Depravity** without Christ
- The **Amalekites** are a picture of our flesh battling against our Spirit

1 Samuel 15

1 Then Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the LORD. 2" Thus says the LORD of hosts, **'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel,** how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. 3' Now go and strike Amalek and **utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him;** but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."

- Harsh? Why?

Deuteronomy 25:17 (Read) Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. 18 When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and **cut off all who were lagging behind;** they had **no fear of God.** 19 When the LORD your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

- **Came out of Egypt:** Saved but not yet in heaven (the journey)
- The Amalekites (flesh) attacked...the weak
- When we are weak, lagging behind, tired the flesh attacks
- When we are not following close to God (Pillar of smoke and fire)

4Then Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah. 5Saul came to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the valley. 6Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, go down from among the Amalekites, so that I do not destroy you with them; **for you showed kindness** to all the sons of Israel when they came up from Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

- Concerning those who bless Israel

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

- The **Kenites** showed kindness to Israel and were spared.

7So Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is east of Egypt. 8He **captured Agag** the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9But Saul and the people **spared Agag** and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

- Captured Agag and kept the things they thought were good?
- **Application:** Partial obedience is disobedience. If God says all of it has to go (whatever that is in our lives), who are we to say some of it is good?
- When God says it's bad...it's bad. **Period.**
- Saul is ruining God's picture of **seriousness of sin**

10Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, 11"I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands "And **Samuel was distressed** and cried out to the LORD all night.

- Samuel loved Saul
- Samuel understood that this was it for Saul
- Deliberate disobedience

12Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul; and it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he **set up a monument for himself**, then turned and proceeded on down to Gilgal."

- **Monument to Self:** Given over to self and given over his fleshly desire to promote self
- Compare this to his victory over the Ammonites

1 Samuel 11:13 *But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has accomplished deliverance in Israel."*

- Digression: Downward Spiral not yet at bottom

13Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "**Blessed are you of the LORD! I have** carried out the command of the LORD." 14But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" 15Saul said, "**They** have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; **but the rest** we have utterly destroyed."

- "**Blessed are you...**" Saul's getting religious again
- Lifting self and blaming others
- "**They** have brought them..." "...the people spared the best"
- But "**I have** carried out the command of the LORD"

16Then Samuel said to Saul, "Wait, and **let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.**" And he said to him, "**Speak!**" 17Samuel said, "Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the LORD anointed you king over Israel, 18and the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are **exterminated.**' 19"Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD?" 20Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21"**But the people** took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD **your** God at Gilgal."

- Busted!

- **Your God:** Distance
- I did it...but. Partial obedience is disobedience

22 Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 "For **rebellion is as the sin of divination**, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."

- "...**to obey is better than sacrifice**
- Do what I tell you, not something else as a substitute. (If it is to forgive...forgive)
- "... **rebellion is as the sin of divination**
- Witchcraft: Saul's first taste...but not last

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice. 25 "Now therefore, please **pardon my sin and return with me**, that I may worship the LORD." 26 But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

- Walk with me so I look good

Amos 3: 3 Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

- Samuel did not want to condone Saul's rebellion

27 As Samuel turned to go, **Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.** 28 So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you. 29 "Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."

- **A sorry sight:** Saul is begging to keep his position
- Samuel says...you've gone too far. You're finished.

30 Then he said, "**I have sinned;** but please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the LORD **your God.**" 31 So Samuel went back **following Saul**, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

- Following: not side by side.

32Then Samuel said, "Bring me Agag, the king of the Amalekites." And **Agag came to him cheerfully**. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." 33But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel **hewed Agag to pieces before the LORD** at Gilgal.

- Let me show you how it's done
- Samuel took a sword and hacked Agag to pieces!
- Type of our "flesh" or selfish desires

34Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. 35Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the **LORD regretted** that He had made Saul king over Israel.

CONCLUSION:

- The minute we become Christians (leave Egypt) we are engaged in a battle
- World system, Devil, and the **Flesh**

Romans: 7:14 (Read) For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am **doing the very thing I hate**. 16But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18For I know that **nothing good dwells in me**, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19For the good that I want, I do not do, but **I practice the very evil** that I do not want. 20But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 21I find then the principle that **evil is present in me**, the one who wants to do good. 22For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23but I see a different law in the members of my body, **waging war** against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24Wretched man that I am! **Who will set me free from the body of this death?**

How can I stop doing the things I know are wrong?

- **Samuels's sword** represents the **Word of God**; or **Jesus Christ** completely destroying the work of the flesh.
- **Reading and doing** the Word of God will help us to walk in the Spirit.
- **Praying and fasting** (denying self) will draw us close to God; to the fire and smoke, not lagging behind as the Israelite were when coming out of Egypt
- Be around those who will hold you up, tell you the truth about yourself, and rejoice in your victory

Exodus 17:8 Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. 9So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." 10Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. 12But **Moses' hands were heavy**. Then they **took a stone and put it under him**, and he sat on it; and **Aaron and Hur supported his hands**, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. 13So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with **the edge of the sword**. 14Then 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."

- Sometime our hands are heavy...we are worn out from the fight
- We need a stone under us...the **Rock of Christ**
- **Edge of the Sword**...The Word of God

Through Christ we can walk in the Spirit...an entirely new way of Life...a victorious purposeful, productive Life.