

Sermon Outline

New Here?



TEXT to connect (269-280-2878): Text “welcome” if you are new, or “prayer” if you would like prayer.

“Saul Strikes Out”

December 28, 2025

Pastor Kris Neider

1 Samuel 15:1-31

Introduction:

1446 BC: Exodus from Egypt

The Amalekites were descendants of Esau (Gen. 36)

They continually attacked Israel (Ex. 17:8-14; Num. 14:45; Jdg. 3:13, 6:3)

God vowed to “blot out” the Amalekites (Ex. 17:15; Dt. 25:19)

The Kenites were friendly towards Israel (Jdg. 1:16)

1043 BC: Saul becomes King

1028 BC: God instructs Saul to blot out the Amalekites

1. Saul’s Disobedience (vv. 1-11)

A. A Difficult Section (vv. 1-9)

I. This was not the normal procedure for Jewish war

- The standard procedure for battling a city was to first extend terms of peace (Deuteronomy 20:10). If the terms were accepted, the people of that city lived and became subservient to Israel (verse 11). If the terms were rejected, the city was besieged and the men were killed, but the women and children were spared (verses 12–14).

- The battles that were part of the conquest of Canaan were intended for a particular time and limited to a particular people group. The conquest of Canaan had clear limits, geographically and historically.

- The wars sanctioned by God beyond the time of Joshua were defensive in nature. A number of the battles that Israel fought on the way to and within Canaan were also defensive in nature (Exodus 17:8; Numbers 21:21 –32; Deuteronomy 2:26 –37; Joshua 10:4).

II. Reasons given to wipe out certain people groups

- God’s judgement for their evil deeds
- To avoid idolatry and compromise
- To prevent future problems

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Canaanites-extermination.html>

III. If you would have done it differently, please read Job 38-41

B. A Difficult Description (vv. 10-11)

What does it mean that God has regrets?

God does not change (Num. 23:19; Is. 46:9-11; Ezek. 24:14; Jam. 1:17)
I the Lord do not change (Mal. 3:6)

The Bible describes God as regretting actions, particularly humanity's sin (Genesis 6:6) and making Saul king (1 Samuel 15:11), but this isn't human-style regret from error; it signifies deep sorrow, displeasure, or grief over human rebellion, using anthropomorphic language to show His emotional response to evil, while His sovereignty and perfect knowledge remain intact. It's more about His disappointment and sadness at choices made, rather than wishing He'd chosen differently, as He fully foresees consequences. -AI Overview

10 Minute John Piper Explanation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmAk9g23Cvs>

2. Saul's Three Strikes (vv. 12-25)

A. Saul Ignores the Problem (vv. 12-14)

B. Saul Deflects the Problem (vv. 15-19)

C. Saul Minimizes the Problem (vv. 20-25)

3. The Lord Rejects Saul as King (vv. 26-31)

Application

Takeaway 1. Brokenness Over Sin is Important to God

Aware, Acknowledge, Brokenness, Apology

Psalm 51:1-6, 10-12, 16-17

Takeaway 2. Full Obedience is Important to God

What's Next?

- January 4, 2026: "Worthy in the Eyes of God" – I Samuel 16:1-3, Pastor Luke Young
- January 11, 2026: "The Ten Commandments" – Exodus 20:1-8, Pastor Corey Kugle