

I Samuel 15

Christians love the NT and spend most of their time studying it: Why?

1. Jesus
2. Good News
3. Mercy
4. Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
5. Directions on living as a Christian under the New Covenant
6. Heaven

Christians spend less time studying the OT: Why?

1. Not relevant or applicable to us now
2. Boring historical stuff
3. Too much blood and gore
4. Too much wrath and judgment on people
5. It is hard to understand

A Key NT Verse

1 Cor 10:11

11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Principle: Jewish history parallels the Christian life. The Jews' conquest of the land of Canaan is a picture of sanctification in the Christian life.

I Samuel 15 is an excellent chapter for demonstrating this.

Three main characters to observe:

Amalekites, King Saul, & Samuel

1 Sam 15:1-35

1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17 And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

22 And Samuel said, 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.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.
32 Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.
33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.
34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.
35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.
(KJV)

Amalekites (the faith-less): Sin in the believers life

1. God never forgets his promises.

V.2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, **I remember that which Amalek did to Israel**, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

Exod 17:14-16

14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for **I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.**

15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

16 For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Moses, Aaron, & Hur (All these things happened...)

Many generations of Amalekites had come and gone since Amalek saw Aaron and Hur hold up the arms of Moses. But, one day judgment fell on them.

V. 32And Agag came unto him (Samuel) delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

Don't think that we are so far removed from Adam that you are not tainted by original sin. We are all his decedents.

1 Cor 15:22

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

2. God demands their total annihilation

3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

How can a loving, merciful God order Saul to slaughter these people? I will have mercy upon whom I will mercy.

Isa 43:3-4

3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

Don't miss this. By His sovereign choosing God has destroyed man, woman, and child to show His people His hatred of sin and the reality of judgment. He intended this to shock us in our complacency. Yet, God is justified in their annihilation.

Men & Women: sin full grown

Infant & Suckling: incipient sin

Ox, Sheep, Camel & Ass: Sin's sustenance

This most certainly is to teach us about the seriousness of sin and our need to eradicate it from our lives.

Now, let's look at the two Israelite men, King Saul & Samuel, who had both received the command regarding the Amalekites. Yet, they responded so differently.

King Saul (Faith-faked): Apostate

1. Partial Obedience and Greed

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and

would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

Recall that it was the people who wanted a king and Saul was the people's choice. Saul does not take God's word seriously.

2. Self Exalting

12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, **he set him up a place**, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

Saul raised a monument at Carmel to honor himself regarding his victory over the Amalekites. Furthermore,

17 And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

Power had gone to Saul's head. God had warned the people that Saul would not be good leader. Saul worships Saul. That is why Samuel accuses him of idolatry.

3. Liar

13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

4. Blame Shifting

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD **thy** God in Gilgal.

Remind you of Adam, Eve, and the Serpent?

5. Doesn't claim God as his

Repeated references to the Lord **thy** God when he talks to Samuel.

6. Concerned about his **position** before the people

24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

7. Confesses and Worships to preserve his position, not because he fears and loves the Lord.

8. God abandons Saul

Samuel (Faith-Full): The true believer

1. Called by God

I Samuel 3: Here am I

2. Prayerful

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and **he cried unto the LORD all night.**

3. Grieved by sin

11he cried unto the LORD all night

Samuel was grieved for Saul.

Samuel was grieved by his own failures:

1 Sam 8:1-5

1 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba.

3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

All these things happened as examples...

4. Confronts sin

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

5. Merciful/Pitiful

30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

6. Totally Obedient

33And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

Samuel finishes the work that Saul failed to complete. As the king of the Amalekites, Agag represents the headship of sin. As in Genesis 3:15, the head of the serpent must be crushed. Cut the tail off of the sin and the sin will grow back. But crush its head and it will die.

Make no mistake. God wants us to do battle with sin and spare none of it alive. Are you fighting with the Amalekites? Have you spared Agag alive? Because, like Samuel, you have been called by God and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, you can hew your Agag in pieces.