

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.

Lord sent me to anoint you – grab attention by Sam, God’s prophet...*take ministry of BG, Chuck.* Saul already on thin ice, incomplete obedience, took office of priest offered sacrifice **13:9-14**. Given a chance to redeem himself & show gratitude to God for choosing and giving him opportunity as King.

Amalek son of Esau attacked weak/feeble as journeyed thru wilderness *Dt 25:17-19 17*“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.

They had 500 years to change their ways, now their iniquity full. *Amalek* a type of the flesh life....Haman (Amalekite) & Esther (spared by Saul)

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.’” 4Then Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah. 5And Saul came to the city of Amalek, and set an ambush in the valley. 6And Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, depart, go down from among the Amalekites, lest I 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.

Utterly destroy-Lit ‘put under the ban’ under God’s judgment—defined as special property of God. His prerogative-destroy utterly Jericho *Josh 6:17-21*

Sometime radical removal to save life--spiritually Jesus if eye pluck **Mat 18:9**

Melanoma cut out to save life. Aaron Ralston 2003 hiking alone made descent Bluejohn Canyon S Utah, boulder dislodged pinning his right wrist to canyon wall. After five days no help in sight broke forearm amputated it w/ dull pocket knife to free himself. Hiked rest of canyon rappel down 65 foot drop & hiked 7 miles to safety.

Sometimes we need to do the extreme to preserve life...I don't make excuse for God or try to defend His actions, nor should you.

Saul is on a mission for God—Amalekite bullies attacked stragglers now they to pay the price. God is for the underdog, those most vulnerable will now bring retribution--utterly destroy them.

Kenites were good guys, descendants of Moses' father in Law Jethro—smiths by trade, befriended Israel during years of wilderness wandering.

7 So Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is east of Egypt. 8 And he captured 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, 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.

Saul feeling good about himself after the win thinks he can do what he wants & ignore God in giving the victory. W/ self exaltation comes independence from God. We are not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think but think soberly w/ sound judgment--gravely, sternly

Saul doesn't have sound judgement but becomes arrogant & prideful—saved Agag & keeps spoils. Partial obedience is disobedience wearing the mask of religious respectability.

Pride Agage a trophy king for Saul—By greed he kept the best of spoil—“*Cursed is man who does work of Lord w/ negligent hand*’...Many Amalekites escaped to harass & fight again & became instrument Saul’s death at hands of Amalekite. Type of the flesh....your sin shall find you out

10 Then 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.

I regret repent—to sigh, be sorry Num 23:19“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

Here the idea is of regret or repent—to be proven unworthy & to change field positions as a runner gives up the ball & it is handed to a new player or new human instrument and still heading for the intended goal but simply changing players. Note the loyalty of Samuel, pray we have people like that to pray on our behalf. He prays all night

12 And Samuel 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.” 13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have carried out the command of the LORD.” 14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my 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 oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed.” 16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Wait, and let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak!” 17 And Samuel 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, 18 and 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?”

Monument to himself – Pr 27:2 *Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.* Saul loves to be praised, loves the first seats to be admired, he writes & read his own press clippings. Careful of leaders who seek the spotlight name building and streets after them. Ps 49:11 *Their inner thought is, that their houses are forever, And their dwelling places to all generations; They have called their lands after their own names.*

Saul uses spiritual jargon to deflect – Not how we talk but how we walk that counts. Sauls monument should be to disobedience not accomplishments. Spiritual words often a cover up of secret sins. Those who quietly live in the shadow of Lord in faith w/o much fanfare or talk are more believable than the braggart.

Saul plays the blame-game & calls God *'Your' God* doesn't own God for himself—a second hand relationship. A sad statement of the religious person—no intimate personal relationship & after 20 yrs it comes out.

20 Then 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." 22 And 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."

No sense of conviction 'the hearing ear the seeing eye the Lord has made both' Yet Saul neither hear nor sees but is callous & insensitive to Lords voice. And makes excuses for his sin - Those good at excuses are good for nothing else especially when using God as the excuse to justify bad behavior. 'God told me' If we are not led by God we're unfit to lead others.

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." 27 And 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" "And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."

2Cor 7:10 *For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.* Repentance is about face turn and go in opposite direction.

Accidental tearing Sam robe a metaphor, illus of tearing kingdom away

Glory of Israel splendor--only here as title for God. God of Israel like bright object, city a traveler heads for. Church now Glory of God-Jesus **Mat 5:14** *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

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. 32 Then 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." 33 But 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. 34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. 35 And Samuel 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.

Saul's motive was to stay in power, ensure following of people, keep Sam Gods man close by. Wants all Gods benefits w/ having to obey God.

Bitterness of death Agag will taste it, walked in sin and wages death.

Mourned for Saul and damage he did to nation while Saul indifferent.