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So much of the history of Israel is sad and filled with death and destruction due to rebelling against God. God had chosen Israel as His chosen People/Nation. If they would have followed God who knows how amazing life would have been for them? If Adam and Eve had not sinned how amazing would life on earth been? If we as individual's had not sinned how amazing would our lives have been?

What we have is this. We are sinners saved by God's Grace through the Sacrifice and Blood of His Son Jesus Christ. We have choices to make for what remains of our lives. Will we walk in obedience to God? Will we seek His Face every morning and ask for His Mercy and Wisdom that we can walk in Righteousness for the rest of our lives, honoring His Name and the Glory of His Son Jesus Christ. Or, will our written history look like many of those in the Old Testament, speaking with boldness but walking in fruitless lives?

In the final analysis, talk is indeed cheap. Walking in obedience not for Salvation but for His Sake, His Glory and Love of us. What else can we as Believers do?

1 Samuel 15

Saul's Disobedience

(Leviticus 20:1-9; Leviticus 26:14-39; Deuteronomy 28:15-68; 1 Kings 13:11-34)

I think we need to pay attention as to how God dealt with those whom He spoke. A true prophet of God would be given precise instruction by God, not the random, broad statements we see today from self-proclaimed prophets of God. I am quite dubious of anyone today that claims to be a prophet of God as to forecasting future events. Prophets were given strict instructions and held to those instructions exactly.

Samuel will receive instructions from God and pass them on to King Saul. King Saul will be then held accountable for those precise instructions and Saul will see that they are carried out as instructed. Failure by the Prophet would and can lead to discipline and often death to the Prophet due to their failure.

To get a clear understanding of the precise nature of God's direction and failure by a prophet read 1 Kings 13:11-34.

1Samuel 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.

A true Prophet would never claim to speak for the Lord unless he was told specifically to do so. Samuel is told to tell King Saul a specific thing and be precise. God anointed Saul through the hands of Samuel His Prophet.

2Thus 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.

Amalek was a descendent of Esau the son of Abraham and brother of Jacob.

Exodus 17: 8Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. 9And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. 10So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

14And 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. 15And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: 16For he said, Because the LORD

hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

*Deuteronomy 25: **17**Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; **18**How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. **19**Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.*

3Now 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.

Can you see any ambiguity in these directions from God through Samuel to King Saul? Did God tell King Saul to bring back the best of the herds so they can be sacrificed? Did God want the King of the Amalekites brought back for public execution?

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

As King, Saul had the authority to call the nation together for war. As his leadership had seemingly improved from his first attempt the people respond in unison. Israel even today as we have said

can muster a massive military response when needed still showing the unity of the Tribes to the Nations leader.

The only tribe singled out amongst the 10 is Judah. They were one of the largest and had distinguished themselves as brave and valiant warriors. God may be laying the ground for the choice of a King from Judah in David and that lineage leading to Christ Himself.

Remember the message from God is clear, blot them out, leave no trace of their existence.

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

We have seen the military tactic in other events both by Israel and against Israel. That is a show of force. Stage your troops in sight of your objective so that fear will creep into their ranks. Fear is a great motivator.

6And 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.

Moses' father-in-law Jethro was a Kenite. Jethro and his lineage showed great deference to Israel when they came out of Egypt

and because they had not been included in God's direction to destroy the Amalekites, King Saul wanted to return the favor they had shown Israel and Moses.

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

So far so good!

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

1st blunder in obedience, taking Agag alive.

9But 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.

I don't pretend to understand the mind of God. God Creates and God destroys as He sees fit. God knows the beginning from the end and has total authority over all creation. In all that power, God determined that He would give His Son, for the lives of all mankind.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so ever believed in Him would have everlasting life.

Samuel Denounces Saul

10Then 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.

17And 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?

20And 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.

22And 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.

23For 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.

Saul's Confession

24And 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.

32Then 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.

34Then 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.

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