

Alternate Religious Understanding

Complete destruction (1 Sam 15:1-3)?

Exodus 17:8-16

Deut 25:17-19

Promised destruction

Exodus 17:14ff

Deut 25:19

God does not forget that his enemies have trampled his people!

Isaiah 35:4

Isaiah 61:2

1 Thess 1:5ff

Rev 6:9-11

It is easy to think this is cruel until you have suffered under such persecution!

There is an opportunity for God's enemies to repent, Psalm 2:10-12

Complete disobedience, 15:4ff!

The clear command, 15:3

Partial obedience = complete disobedience: 15:7-9

Complete analysis, 15:10ff

The data

“But Saul and the army...were unwilling to destroy completely,” 15:9c

“he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions,” 1 Sam 15:10

“there he has set up a monument in his own honor,” 15:12

“What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears,” 1 Sam 15:14?

“Why did you not obey the LORD,” 1 Sam 15:19?

The excuses

“I have carried out the LORD’s instructions,” 15:13

“I completely destroyed the Amalekites,” 15:20

“The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites,” 15:15

The analysis

1. Saul is more concerned with what people think than what God thinks, John 12:43

He set up a monument in his own honor, 15:12

“I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them,” 15:24

“Please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel,” 15:30

2. Saul has a defective view of worship

13:8-9

Worship is not so much to honor God as it is to gain his favor at any cost.

3. *Saul keeps using “religion” to secure the victory for himself, 14:24b*

14:18-19

Perhaps this will insure victory

Indecision

14:24:b

No, this oath, soldiers fasting will insure victory.

14:33-35

Oh, no, now we must be religious again (because of Saul’s foolish decision)

14:36ff.

Ok let’s inquire of God

14:44

Takes an oath to kill his son (A religious act)... the human instrument of victory and the one who has wisdom throughout this chapter.

14:45

Saul, "wisely" gives in to the people, a trait he will repeat again, 15:24,30

This matter clearly is revealed in Chapter 15

15: 15, 21, 31

Saul "repents" for the sake of public image, 15:25c, 15:30

4. He has rejected God's Word

He has not carried out my instructions, 15:11.

He rejected the word of the LORD, 15:23, 26.

5. He has shallow repentance, 15:24, 15:30

I have sinned, but let's put this messy thing behind us and save face.

6. He fails a second significant opportunity to obey God,

1 Samuel 13:8-14; cf. 10:8

Here in chapter 15

God is good to give Saul an opportunity to respond obediently!

It was hard, but he could have done it.

He had more resources now than before, 1 Sam 15:4

The disobedience analyzed:

Partial obedience = disobedience, rebellion, arrogance

Partial obedience + worship = disobedience, rebellion, arrogance

God does not want your outward worship (what people can see) so much as he wants your heart (what people cannot see). External devotion is no substitute for internal submission.¹ See John 4:23,24!

Psalms 40:6-8; 50:8-15; 51:16,17; Prov 15:8; 21:3, 27; 28:9 Isa 1:11-15; Jer 6:19-20; Hos 6:6; Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:6-8

Next week a thorough analysis of Saul

¹ Davis, *Looking on the Heart*, vol. 2, p. 16.