

Saul's wars, Saul rejected as King

Notes for 4 May

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Read: [1 Samuel 14:47-15:34](#)

Genocide and Regret

1. "Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation - men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, camels, and donkeys."???

You need to read [Exodus 17:10-16](#) to understand why this command was issued. This is one of the most difficult passages for a Christian from the modern, western world to defend. Irrespective of what Richard Dawkins states, the God in Whom I believe is not a genocidal maniac!

DISCUSS!

2. Saul slaughtered the Amalakites. He captured the king, Agag, and spared his life. He kept the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs.

Remember Pam's comment on the 20th April; 'There is a pattern of behaviour.' He doesn't quite carry out God's commands. Catherine's instincts about Saul appear to be reinforced by following the narrative in 1 Samuel.

Where do we now sit with Saul?

3. "I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and again refused to obey me."
4. Can you reconcile this statement with an all-knowing and all-wise God?
5. We need to read during our discussion, [1 Samuel 15:12-22](#). "Obedience is far better than sacrifice."

We need to discuss this statement, but on the basis of Jonathan Sachs' interpretation of 'To Obey'. Was Paul making a similar point in [1 Corinthians 13](#)?

6. "Then Saul finally admitted, 'Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the Lord's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. Oh please forgive my sin now and go with me to worship the Lord.'"

Verse 30: "Then Saul pleaded again, "I know I have sinned. But please, at least honour me before the leaders and before my people by going with me with me to worship the Lord your God."

Is there a problem with Saul's attempt at repentance and his plea for forgiveness?

7. Agag was brought before Samuel and he cut him to pieces. Was due process ignored, or the equivalent, 3000 years ago?