

Equality Under the Law

The King and the People Series

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What We Will Learn

- The Law of a people applies equally to all, irrespective of differences or similarities
- God terminated Saul as king of Israel
- For discriminatory application of the law
- Regarding command against Amalekites
- Equality under the law
- Is part of God's mandate
- 1 Samuel 15:1-23

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Command Against Amalekites

- God judged Amalek for complete destruction
- Commanded Saul to execute the judgment
- No exemption for any Amalekite
- Equal application of the law to all
- Means destruction of every Amalekite
- Irrespective of differences or similarities among them
- 1 Samuel 15:1-3

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

1 Samuel also said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord.

2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

3 Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "

- God judged all of Amalek for destruction
- Commanded king of Israel Saul to execute the judgment

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Discrimination by Saul

- Saul devised discriminatory criteria
- To separate Amalekites into two classes
- For unequal treatment under the law
- Selected the *good* for special treatment
- Destroyed others (the *not good*)
- 1 Samuel 15:7-9

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

7 And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

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

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

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 unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

- Separated Amalekites into two classes
 - All that was good
 - Everything despised and worthless

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Judgment Against Saul

- God regretted making Saul king
- Did not apply the law equally in executing God's command against Amalek
 - He turned away from following God
 - Disobeyed God's commandment
 - Violated principle of equality under the law
- 1 Samuel 15:10–11

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

10 Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying,

11 "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night.

- God regretted making Saul king
- Because he did not follow God's direction

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Saul Defends His Violation

- Proclaimed he completed God's command
- Explained he allowed his soldiers to select from the battle spoils
- To sacrifice to God in worship
- Modified God's command and allowed soldiers to apply the command differently based on personal preferences
- 1 Samuel 15:13–21

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment 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?"

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

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

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on."

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

17 So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?"

18 Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?"

20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

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Samuel Rebukes Saul

- More important to obey God's command
- Than to engage in symbolic acts of worship
- 1 Samuel 15:22–23

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

22 So Samuel said:
"Has 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 heed than the fat of rams.

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1 Samuel 15 (NKJV)

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the
Lord, He also has rejected you from being
king.”

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What We Learned

- The law of a people must apply equally to all
 - Application of punishment
 - Distribution of rewards
 - Protection under the law
 - Access to facilities of society
- No discrimination
- God rejected Saul as king of Israel
- For discriminatory application of the law
- Regarding command against Amalekites

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