

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF 1 SAMUEL

[PART 24] WHY WE MUST NOT ALLOW AGAG TO LIVE

Reading: 1 Samuel 15:1-3 & 7-9 & 19-20 & 32-33

Introduction

- **Question:** Who were the Amalekites?
- Isaac marries Rebekah and twins are eventually in her womb. (Esau & Jacob).
- From Jacob come the covenant people of Israel.
- From a grandson of Esau called '**Amalek**,' the Amalekites come.
- **Question:** What did the Amalekites do to incur the judgement of God?
- In [Exodus 17] they ambushed the Israelites on their way to Promised Land.
- They touched '**the apple of God's eye**' and God declared war on them.
- They continued to be a thorn in Israel's flesh from generation to generation.
- In our reading, their '**cup of iniquity**' was now full.
- Notice the clear command, '**utterly destroy all that they have**.'
- Saul did not fully obey the command.
- Subsequent history shows the Amalekites being troublesome.
- **NB.** In book of Esther, Haman is a descendant of Agag.
- **NB.** Partial obedience is actually disobedience.

1 Agag Represents Our Old Nature

- We are all born with a nature inclined away from God.
- It has a bias towards what is sinful/unholy.
- When we are saved a new nature is implanted within us towards God and righteousness.

- Although the old nature is weakened, it is not destroyed.
- It resents what it considers to be the invasion of this new nature.
- This results in a struggle within us. (like struggle in Rebekah's womb between Jacob & Esau.)
- The new nature wants to produce godliness and Christlikeness.
- If believer is to grow in grace they must kill this old nature [1 Corin 15:31/Romans 8:13].
- Agag is the old nature and we must not spare it.

2 Why Do We Want To Keep Agag Alive?

- We still, deep down, have an affection for it. (Some habit, attitude, practice).

3 The Cost Of Keeping Agag Alive

- Because Agag/Amalekites were not utterly destroyed they were a constant source of irritation to Israel.
- Consider what it cost Saul personally. He lost his crown and kingdom.
- He never realised his full potential.
- Keeping Agag alive will rob you of your closeness to Christ.

4 Agag Will Attempt To Reason With You

- Consider [vs 32].
- Make sure you ignore Agag's voice and heed the voice of God's Spirit in you.

5 What Agag In Your Life Needs To Be Hacked To Pieces?

- ***'utterly destroy all of them, and do not spare them.'***
- We need to be ruthless and make sure we kill Agag.
- Samuel hacks Agag to pieces ***'before the Lord.'***
- Be honest to identify your Agag and confess and tell it to the Lord.
- Ask the Lord to help you hate it as much as Samuel hated Agag.
- Pray for grace to say and mean ***'no.'***
- Each time you say ***'no'*** your Agag becomes smaller and smaller.
- Ask the Spirit within you for help to slay your Agag.

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