



## Only God Defines Fair

17<sup>th</sup> in the “God’s King” Series

1 Samuel 15

October 2, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

### Introduction

In this passage the glory of God is thrust upon us so that we are forced to see and respond to the Bible’s God.

### The Text: 1 Samuel 15

<sup>1</sup>And Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. <sup>3</sup>Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’” <sup>4</sup>So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah. <sup>5</sup>And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley. <sup>6</sup>Then Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, depart; go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. <sup>7</sup>And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt.

**This difficult passage gives us a wonderful opportunity to see how every portion of God’s Word (even the hard parts) extends into today’s world and our personal lives in order to pastor us to know and love God.**

a) How can we handle the shock of this passage in order to see what it wants us to know?

- *We must begin with what scripture says elsewhere about God.*
- *With those lenses, we can then make clear what this text is NOT saying about God.*

b) What might this story be teaching the church to see and understand?

- *Our lives are not our own – the created has no rights before the Creator.*
- *God’s glory (holiness, perfection, etc.) requires him to deal with humanity’s sin.*
- *God’s glory and holiness demand either death for us or the death of Jesus in our place.*
- *God assigns his people to serve as his agents, which in the New Covenant is spiritual in nature.*

### Response

Lord, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are your ways higher than our ways.

## Sunday Text Questions

1 Samuel 15

October 2, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: How can we know if our view of God is biblical?
- 2) Read the text aloud (specifically vv. 1-7) and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Be honest: what is your reaction to v. 3?
- 4) Can you think of any human reason why the seemingly innocent, like children and infants, would need to be slaughtered?
- 5) Now, can you think of any divine reason why God would have the right, even responsibility, to slaughter humans?
- 6) Read Isaiah 26:21, Psalm 7:11, and Romans 1:18. What reasons do those texts give for God pouring out his wrath on humanity?
- 7) How does the reality that every man, woman, and child is deserving of death make the death of Jesus Christ in our place “good news?”
- 8) Read John 3:36 and Romans 6:23. How do these verses describe helpfully the reality of God’s wrath and the gift of God’s grace?
- 9) How does this passage force the Christian to submit to scripture’s view of God and not their own perspective or their culture’s perspective?
- 10) How would you explain this passage to a new Christian or a person who comes to you struggling to understand why God would do this?

**Further study this week:** Passages on the glory of God: 1 Corinthians 10:31 (Mon); Isaiah 42:8 (Tues); Romans 11:36 (Wed); Romans 3:23 (Thurs); Exodus 24:17 (Fri).