

# The Destruction Of The Amalekites

## 1 Samuel 15:1-3

### Introduction

- A. God's love & graciousness seem limitless
  - 1. **John 3: 16-17** – so loved world gave Son – not come to judge, came to save
  - 2. **1 Timothy 2:3** – wants all men to saved & come to a knowledge of the truth
  - 3. **2 Peter 3:9** – not wanting anyone to perish – all come to eternal life
  - 4. Regardless of the sin – blood of Jesus can cleanse
- B. Text seems strange – how blend this with God's love?
  - 1. Utterly destroy the Amalekites (annihilate, exterminate)
  - 2. Are seeing the reality of the wrath of God
  - 3. Is a God that is fully loving, but also executes wrath

### I. Background Of The Text

- A. The people
  - 1. Descendents of Esau – **Genesis 36:10-16**
  - 2. Nomadic people who constantly attacked & oppressed Israel
  - 3. **Exodus 17:8-16** – attacked them as traveled to Promised Land
- B. God is extremely angry with them
  - 1. Destroy every man, woman, child, infant & animal
  - 2. **Exodus 17** – made an unprovoked attack – no reason but to destroy
  - 3. Israel had just escaped from Egypt & struggling in the wilderness
  - 4. All nations in land extremely wicked
    - a. **Leviticus 18:1-5** – Israel told not to be like them
    - b. **Deuteronomy 9:4-6** – reason got land = they were extremely wicked
  - 5. Brutality & wickedness so embedded = beyond repentance
  - 6. Had to be removed – like a cancer
- C. God had been patient with them over the centuries
  - 1. **Genesis 15:16** – 4th generation inherit land – iniquity of Amorite not yet full
  - 2. Should have heeded warning – when Egypt fell
  - 3. Now it's time for justice to prevail – punishment be inflicted
- D. Israel has been chosen – Saul chosen to lead them
  - 1. God uses nations to inflict His wrath
  - 2. Amalekites had been devoted to God – to be slaughtered
    - a. God would be with His people – would be victorious
    - b. Enemy never had a chance

### II. Some Of The Lessons We Can Learn

- A. Sinfulness brings consequences
  - 1. **Numbers 32:23** – be sure sin will find you out
  - 2. **Genesis 4:7** – sin wants to rule you – When it does it brings death – **Romans 6:23**
  - 3. God will hold us accountable – **2 Corinthians 5:10**
  - 4. Any time allow sin to rule = a price to pay – **Galatians 6:7-8**
  - 5. Only hope – Jesus
- B. God is just as well as gracious & merciful
  - 1. Many see Him as a grandfather – boys will be boys (permissive)

2. A loving God could never do this (cruel & unusual punishment)
  3. See the extent of God's hatred of sin
    - a. **Leviticus 18:24-28** – their sin even defiled the land
    - b. **Leviticus 20:1-16** – deserving of death
    - c. **Jeremiah 16:16-21** – make them pay double
  4. One day – all evil will be eradicated – paid for in full
    - a. **2 Peter 3:10-12** – day coming everything destroyed
    - b. **2 Thessalonians 1:5-10** – punish all who not know God or obey gospel
- C. We've not been called to destroy evil, but to preach salvation
1. Israel chosen to destroy a nation
  2. We chosen to save all nations – **Matthew 28:19-20**
    - a. God is patient with us – **2 Peter 3:8-9**
    - b. Wants to work through us – join Him in sharing message
  3. When we do – God will destroy all that would oppose us
    - a. We are more than conquerors
    - b. Even death's sting is nothing in Jesus
    - c. **1 Peter 3:8-14** – who harm you if you eager to do right

## Conclusion

- A. A wicked people were to be destroyed
  1. God had had enough
- B. Let's learn
  1. All sin has consequences
  2. God is a just God & punishes all sin
  3. Accept the challenge & carry the message of hope to all
- C. Invitation