

**Rise & Fall: Young David**  
Andy Deane · 6/11/2023 · 1 Samuel 15-16

As we read of Saul's decline and young David's rise we'll be challenged about the condition of our own heart.

**This is honestly a difficult passage to understand:**

*1 Samuel 15:2-3, ...2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'*

Here are some core convictions I keep in mind when I read a difficult Bible passage: (1) The Bible is inerrant. (2) God is good, just, and loving. (3) I won't apologize for God. (4) If I'm confused, the problem is with me.

Keep these truths in mind as you process these verses:

- God judges the wicked now, even as his ultimate purpose is to bless all the nations in the end: [Genesis 12:3](#)
- This was not ethnically motivated, because even Israel's sin was judged severely: [Deuteronomy 28:15-68](#)
- God was patient for 400 years to wait for their repentance, but they got worse during that time: [Genesis 15:16](#)
- They were an evil and wicked culture that threw children into fires as a sacrifice: [Leviticus 18](#) & [Deuteronomy 9:4](#)
- God was preventing this evil from spreading across the world (and it did spread to Israel): [Deuteronomy 20:17](#)
- God's action against Amalekites is only immoral to those who do not recognize God's right to judge: [James 4:12](#)
- God knew the future of not judging this particular sin: [1 Samuel 30:1-2](#), [2 Samuel 1:5-10](#), [Esther 3:8-10](#)
- God shows his mercy in that there will be some Amalekites in heaven: [Revelation 7:9](#)
- Jesus died so that even the most evil people could still have an opportunity to be forgiven: [Romans 5:10](#)

Here are two quotes related to this difficult topic:

- "I used to think that wrath was unworthy of God. Isn't God love? Shouldn't divine love be beyond wrath? God is love, and God loves every person and every creature. That's exactly why God is wrathful against some of them. My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry. Or think of Rwanda in the last decade of the past century, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By doting on the perpetrators in a grandfatherly fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators' basic goodness? Wasn't God fiercely angry with them? Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God's wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love." — [Miroslav Volf](#)
- "The problem isn't that God is evil. The problem is that we are. It isn't that God has mistreated us, but that we have mistreated him. This text and others like it bother us for one fundamental reason: we have virtually no grasp on the holiness of God or the sinfulness of humanity. We have little sense of the transcendent beauty, moral purity, and infinite righteousness of the Creator. And we have little sense of the depth and extent and ugliness of our own depravity." — [Sam Storms](#)

*[Luke 13:1-5](#), Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."*

Still struggling? Text **DIFFICULT** to (951)425-4425 for recommended articles and books to read about this.

## **FALL: Thinking our heart is better than God's heart:**

*1 Samuel 15:9-11, 22, ...9 Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely... 10 Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11 "I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night... 20 "But I did obey the Lord," Saul said... 22 But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

- God said it was all evil, Saul said "I know better". Saul chose to trust and obey his heart instead of God's heart.
- Our obedience shows our respect, more than "religious" activities. We must let God really change us!

## **RISE: Seeking passionately after God's heart:**

*1 Samuel 16:1, 5-13, ...1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." ...5 Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." 12 So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David...*

*1 Samuel 13:14, ...the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart...*

Here are four lessons we learn about seeking God's heart:

1. Seeking God's heart is clouded by today's cultural standards (16:6):
  - Samuel was searching for someone that looked like a king according to their cultural standards.
  - We are being discipled every day by our greatest inputs.
  - If those inputs are largely worldly, then we are being discipled by the world's culture, instead of God's Word.
2. Seeking God's heart means growing our inner spiritual self (16:7):
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16, ...*Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*
  - How is our inner self renewed? Through daily prayer, bible reading, fasting, serving, etc.
3. Seeking God's heart is a pursuit for all ages, especially the young (16:11):
  - Parents, talking to your kids about Jesus, and talking to Jesus with your kids, is so very important.
  - We have immediate openings to serve our children and youth: Text **SERVE** to (951)425-4425 to learn more.
4. Seeking God's heart leads to us getting a new heart (16:13):
  - David would only succeed because God's spirit came upon Him, and he sought after God's heart all his days.
  - Ezekiel 36:26, *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

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