

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	06 December. 2026.....	1Samuel 01-02.....	Prayer
2)	13 Dec.....	1Samuel 03-04.....	Calling
3)	20 Dec.....	Luke 02.....	(Christmas) Savior
4)	27 Dec.....	1Samuel 05-07.....	Supremacy
5)	03 January 2027.....	1Samuel 08-14.....	King Demanded
6)	10 Jan.....	1Samuel 15.....	Obedience
7)	17 Jan.....	Psalms 139.....	Value of Life

INTRODUCTION

- King Saul continues to do things his own way and disappoints both God & Samuel.
- We have several disturbing issues to contend with in this chapter:
 - Why would God want to annihilate an entire people group from off the face of the earth – men, women, children, and their animals? Doesn't God say He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked? [Ezek 33:11](#)
 - When Saul asked for forgiveness, why weren't all things forgiven, forgotten, and restored? [1John 1:9](#)
 - Didn't God forgive King David for his affair with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah? Why was King Saul's transgression of not killing everything and everyone considered worse? [Psalms 51](#)
 - Aren't we asked to show mercy and grace and even feed our enemies? So, when King Saul showed mercy to the King of Amalek, why would God be so severe to Saul? [Prov 25:21; Rom 12:20](#)

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 15:1-35	God Gives Very Explicit Instructions - v3. Utterly destroy & spare not – man, woman, child or animal - v6. Saul's compassionate side spares the Kenites - v9. Saul fails the mission and spares animals and King Agag - What would you do if you were God? Forgive & forget? - v13. And Saul lies to Samuel, "I have completed the mission" - vv15-21. Like Adam, Saul makes excuses for his failure - vv22-23. God prefers to have obedience over any sacrifice (e.g., Be kind one to another is preferred over tithing) - Leave gift on the altar and go be reconciled Mt 5:23-24 - vv25-26. Saul asked forgiveness. Why did Samuel refuse? - Consider this. God knew the real heart condition of Saul, and he was apparently only sorry for getting caught

Passage	Comments
Amalekites / Agagites	- The Amalekites were not a benevolent nation. They attempted to stop the Israelites when they marched out of Egypt and through their territory (Deut 25:18) attacking them frequently (Ex 17:8-16; Num 14:45). We read of them in league with the Moabites (Jud 3:13) and the Midianites (Jud 6:3). And their King Agag was noted for ruthless killings (1Sam 15:33). - God told Saul to utterly wipe out the Amalekites – men, women, children, and their animals (Deut 25:17-19; 1Sam 15:2-3). God only does this when there is severe sin, such as nation-wide homosexuality and bestiality. - Saul finally desolated their territory and destroyed their power (1Sam 14:48) but he lost his kingdom due to failure to annihilate them utterly (1Sam 15); and David battled them to save his family, and he recovered war booty from them (1Sam 30:18-20) - In Esther, Haman, who was an Agagite (aka, Amalekite) was a sworn enemy of the Jews. When Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman, he may have been heeding God's higher command to dishonor the Agagites/Amalekites Deut 25:19

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Consider this – There are overriding principles at play when God desires to bestow or to withhold mercy from individuals or nations:
 - If there is no repentance, then "Let the wicked perish before God as wax melts in the fire" [Ps 68:2](#)
 - Only God knows the heart ([Ps 44:21](#)), & when one turns away from God (no true repentance) then God causes them to perish [Is 29:13-14](#)
 - "...Nor does [God] have pity [or mercy] on their orphans or widows; For every one of them is godless and an evildoer" [Isaiah 9:17](#)
 - "Though the wicked is shown favor [or grace], He does not learn righteousness" [Isaiah 26:10](#)
- Therefore, true repentance & godly behavior determines one's blessings
- We must draw near to God for Him to draw near to us [James 4:8](#)

Note: See table below regarding how God addresses difficult charges

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 139 – Sanctity of Life. This Psalm is frequently used to show how valuable each life is. We also look at the concept do all babies and mentally handicapped automatically go to Heaven when they die.

Atheistic Issues w/ God*	Possible Biblical Justification from Atheist Perspective	God's Perspective
Filicidal	• Deut 21:18-21 – Death to stubborn and rebellious sons	• Lev 11:45 – "For I am the LORD...your God; you shall be holy, for I am holy."
Genocidal	• Ex 23:23 – God will "utterly" destroy the inhabitants of the land • Deut 2:34; 3:3,6-8 – Israelites annihilated the Amorites – men, women & children; but spared the animals • 1Sam 15:3 Saul was told to "utterly destroy" the Amalekites – men, women, children, babies, and their animals	• Lev 18; Deut 9:4; 12:31; 18:14 – God wanted to "utterly" destroy the 7 nations of Canaan (even their animals) for their horrific and unrepentant sins – immorality, homosexuality, bestiality, child sacrifice, sorcery (cf Deut 20:16,17; Josh 6:21) • Lev 25:2,23 – The land and the people of Israel belong to God • Deut 29:29 – Secret things belong onto God • Deut 32:4 – For all His ways are just; He is a God of faithfulness and without injustice, He is righteous and upright • Is 55:8-9 – "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. • Achan in Joshua 7 , like Ananias & Sapphira in Acts 5 , were prime examples of discipline to establish proper fear of God
Homophobic	• Lev 18:22 – Men are not to lie sexually with men	
Jealous and proud of it	• Ex 34:14 ... you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God • Nahum 1:2 – A jealous and avenging God is the LORD;	
Megalomaniacal	• Psalm 57:5 – Be exalted above the heavens, O God; Let Your glory be above all the earth.	
Misogynistic	• Lev 27:4,5 – Women are worth less than men	
Petty	• Lev 24:10-16 Death for cursing • Num 15:32-36 Death for gathering wood on the Sabbath	
Racist	• Deut 7:6; 14:2 – God chose Israel above all others	
Vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser	• Num 31:1-18 – God had Israel annihilate the Midianites for their malicious activities toward them (cf Num 22-25)	
Capriciously malevolent bully	• Lev 18; 26:14-38; Deut 7:1 – These passages address the issues on the left. God charged the Israelites not to follow in the sins of the 7 nations of Canaan (Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites, Girgashites) – whom God wanted "utterly" destroyed – with no pity (Deut 7:16; Josh 11:20)	
Infanticidal	• Joshua 7 – For coveting, Achan, his kids, his animals, were stoned and burned along with his belongings	
Pestilential		
Sadomasochistic		
Unforgiving control freak		
Unjust		

Note (*): Atheistic issues with God taken from "The God Delusion", Richard Dawkins, Houghton Mifflin Company Boston, 2006