

RECAP

- **Israel asked for a king-** request was fine, motivation wasn't
 - To have someone lead into battle- trust issue
 - To have a king like the other nations- identity issue
- **Saul clearly chosen by God to be 1st king of Israel**
 - Confirmed through anointing by Samuel and through the casting of lots
- **Saul is king Israel wanted**
 - Successfully led people into battle
 - Physically imposing, handsome, from prominent family,...no relationship w/God

ISRAEL AND THE AMALEKITES

Deuteronomy 25.17-19: Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God. When the LORD your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

IS GOD TOO HARSH TO SAUL?

Justifies Own Behavior

- I have carried out the LORD's instructions
- we totally destroyed the rest
- I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king

Blames Soldiers

- The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD *your* God
- The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, ... in order to sacrifice them to the LORD *your* God at Gilgal.”

God has a name by John Mark Comer

Exodus 34.6-7: “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

DOES GOD *NAHAM* OR NOT?

Yes

- V11: I regret (*naham*) I have made Saul king
- V35: And the LORD regretted (*naham*) that he had made Saul king over Israel.

No

- V29: He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind (*naham*); for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind (*naham*).”

GOD NEVER CHANGES

- **Psalm 102.27:** Like clothing you will change [the heavens] and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.
- **Malachi 3.6:** I the LORD do not change.
- **James 1.17:** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

- God's essence never changes- who He is as God is always the same
- **Nature-** omnipotent, omniscient, eternal, personal, relational (Trinitarian)
- **Character-** holy, loving, just, gracious, faithful, true, etc.

EXCEPT WHEN HE DOES

- **Genesis 6.6-7:** The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—...—for I regret that I have made them.”
- **Jeremiah 18.7-10:** If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

EXCEPT WHEN HE DOES

- As a personal and relational being, God allows Himself to be influenced by the prayers and actions of people
- See Moses convincing God to *naham* in Exodus 32; story of the Syrophoenician woman in Matthew 15/Mark 7
- His character and nature never change, but He adjusts the specific expressions of His character and nature to the moral state of each of us; i.e. repentance of Ninevites in Jonah

WE GET THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

