

“Genocide and Judgment” **1 Samuel 14:47-15:9**

Saul’s successful warfare summarized (14:47-52).

Here’s a brief description of the first half of Saul’s reign. Events of ch.13 -14 were some 20 yrs before the episode of ch. 15

Saul’s selective obedience in warfare w/Amalek (15:1-9).

*What kind of war is this? *Herem* warfare (“under the ban”) in which all is consecrated to God to express divine judgment (Josh. 6:17-21, Dt. 13:12-28, 20:16-18) vs. typical warfare (20:10-15).

*Why this war? Dt. 25:17-19 recalls Ex. 17:8-16. This judgment is an amazing 420 years later. Amalakites were living on borrowed time--see their evil actions later in I Sam. 30 and Esther 3:1.

*Saul fails and will get in trouble. David Plotz notes “This passage puts modern readers in the bizarre position of siding with mercilessness and genocide.”

Why so much war in OT?

*“War” = 300x in OT

*How is God unapologetically pictured?

God is pictured as. . . Ex. 15:3, Isa. 42:13, Ps. 24:8

God empowers. . . Jdg. 15:14-16, I Sam. 11:6

God is directly involved with. . . Dt. 20:4, Isa. 10:5, Jer. 51:20
Angelics--Dan. 10:20,21

“Lord Sabbaoth” (*Lord of Hosts*) = over 200x

*Why all the wars? Gen. 15:16, Lv. 18:25, 20:23, see first 1/3 of Isa. w/judgments upon nations or Nahum 2:13, 3:1 or Rev. 18:20,21. Note war in heaven (Rev. 12:7) and in millennium too (Rev. 20:8)

*The reality of war: *There is a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace (Ecc. 3:8). There will be wars and rumors of wars; these must take place (Mtt. 24:6).*

*Human history is heading towards a climactic war: Rev. 19:11-19

Believers today: We are to be soldier-like: 2 Tim. 2:3,4, Eph. 6
We’ve got some rather grim orders too!