

CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OUTLINES FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL, Week 5**War with the Amalekites**

Scripture Reading: Scripture Reading: 1 Sam. 15; Exo. 17:8-13; Gal. 5:16-17, 24

- 1 Samuel 15:1 And Samuel said to Saul, Jehovah sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore listen to the voice of the words of Jehovah.
- 1 Samuel 15:2 Thus says Jehovah of hosts, I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they set themselves against them in the way as they came up out of Egypt.
- 1 Samuel 15:3 Go now and strike the Amalekites; and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, infant and suckling, oxen and sheep, camel and donkey.
- 1 Samuel 15:4 And Saul summoned the people and mustered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen and ten thousand men of Judah.
- 1 Samuel 15:5 And Saul came to the city of the Amalekites and set an ambush in the river valley.
- 1 Samuel 15:6 And Saul said to the Kenites, Go, depart; go down from among the Amalekites; otherwise, I will destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt. And the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.
- 1 Samuel 15:7 Then Saul struck the Amalekites from Havilah as you go toward Shur, which is opposite Egypt.
- 1 Samuel 15:8 And he captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.
- 1 Samuel 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fatlings, and the lambs and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them; but everything that was despised and worthless, this they utterly destroyed.
- 1 Samuel 15:10 And the word of Jehovah came to Samuel, saying,
- 1 Samuel 15:11 I repent that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not fulfilled My words. And Samuel was angry, and he cried to Jehovah all night long.
- 1 Samuel 15:12 Then Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, saying, Saul went to Carmel and has now set up a monument for himself, and he has returned and passed on down to Gilgal.
- 1 Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, Blessed are you of Jehovah! I have fulfilled the word of Jehovah.
- 1 Samuel 15:14 And Samuel said, What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears and the lowing of oxen that I hear?
- 1 Samuel 15:15 And Saul said, They have been brought from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice to Jehovah your God, and the rest we have utterly destroyed.
- 1 Samuel 15:16 Then Samuel said to Saul, Stop, and I will tell you what Jehovah spoke to me last night. And he said to him, Speak.
- 1 Samuel 15:17 And Samuel said, Though you are small in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? And Jehovah has anointed you king over Israel.
- 1 Samuel 15:18 And Jehovah sent you on a journey and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.
- 1 Samuel 15:19 Why then did you not obey the voice of Jehovah, but flew upon the spoil and did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah?
- 1 Samuel 15:20 And Saul said to Samuel, I surely did obey the voice of Jehovah, and I went on the journey that Jehovah sent me on. And I have brought Agag the king of the Amalekites and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
- 1 Samuel 15:21 But of the spoil the people took sheep and oxen, the chief of those things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to Jehovah your God in Gilgal.
- 1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, / Does Jehovah delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices / As much as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? / Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, / And to heed, than the fat of rams.
- 1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, / And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim. / Because you have rejected the word of Jehovah, / He has also rejected you from being king.
- 1 Samuel 15:24 And Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of Jehovah and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.
- 1 Samuel 15:25 Now therefore pardon my sin, I beg you, and return with me so that I may worship Jehovah.
- 1 Samuel 15:26 But Samuel said to Saul, I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of Jehovah, and Jehovah has rejected you from being king over Israel.
- 1 Samuel 15:27 And when Samuel turned around to go, Saul seized the corner of his cloak, and it tore.
- 1 Samuel 15:28 And Samuel said to him, Jehovah has torn the kingdom of Israel away from you today and has given it to an associate of yours, who is better than you.
- 1 Samuel 15:29 Moreover the Eminence of Israel does not lie nor repent, for He is not a man that He should repent.
- 1 Samuel 15:30 Then Saul said, I have sinned. Honor me now, I beg you, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me so that I may worship Jehovah your God.
- 1 Samuel 15:31 So Samuel returned after Saul, and Saul worshipped Jehovah.

1 Samuel 15:32	Then Samuel said, Bring Agag the king of the Amalekites near to me. And Agag came to him cheerfully, for Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death has turned.
1 Samuel 15:33	And Samuel said, Just as your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before Jehovah in Gilgal.
1 Samuel 15:34	And Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul.
1 Samuel 15:35	And Samuel never again saw Saul unto the day of his death, though Samuel mourned for Saul. And Jehovah repented that He had made Saul king over Israel.
Exodus 17:8	Then Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.
Exodus 17:9	And Moses said to Joshua, Choose men for us, and go out; fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.
Exodus 17:10	So Joshua did as Moses had said to him and fought with Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.
Exodus 17:11	And when Moses lifted his hand up, Israel prevailed; and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed.
Exodus 17:12	But Moses' hands were heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.
Exodus 17:13	And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.
Galatians 5:16	But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.
Galatians 5:17	For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these oppose each other that you would not do the things that you desire.
Galatians 5:24	But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

Day 1

1 Samuel 15:7-9	Then Saul struck the Amalekites from Havilah as you go toward Shur, which is opposite Egypt. And he captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fatlings, and the lambs and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them; but everything that was despised and worthless, this they utterly destroyed.
Galatians 5:17	For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these oppose each other that you would not do the things that you desire.

I. First Samuel 15 is a record of **Saul's disobedience** in his conquest of the Amalekites:

- A. He conquered the enemy, yet he was altogether **disobedient to God**—vv. 7-9.
- B. Here Saul was absolutely and thoroughly exposed, and then he was **given up by God** and also by Samuel—vv. 14-26.
- C. This chapter contains an **important lesson** for us today.

II. In typology, the Amalekites signify the **flesh**—the fallen man— Exo. 17:8-16:

- A. Amalek, the flesh, is the leading enemy in **frustrating us from going on with the Lord**—v. 8; Deut. 25:17-18:
 1. The name Amalek means “warlike,” indicating that the flesh is **warlike**, **destructive**, and **disturbing**.
 2. The greatest destroyer of the Christian life is the **flesh**—1 Pet. 2:11.
 3. The fact that God has a continual war with Amalek reveals that **God hates the flesh and desires to exterminate it**—Exo. 17:16; Gal. 5:17.

Day 2

Galatians 2:16	And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.
Romans 8:7	Because the mind set on the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither can it be.

- B. The flesh denotes the **totality of the fallen old man**, our entire fallen being—Gen. 6:3; Rom. 7:18a; Gal. 2:16:
1. The flesh is the **living out** and the **expression** of the **old man**—Rom. 6:6.
 2. The flesh is **enmity against God**, the flesh is not subject to God's law, and the flesh is not able to subject itself to God's law—8:7.
- C. The **flesh is the camp of God's enemy** and the largest base for his work—Gal. 5:19-21:
1. In the entire universe God's unique enemy, in a practical sense, is not Satan but the **flesh**—Rom. 8:7.
 2. The flesh, the fallen man, is **absolutely one with Satan** and is used by Satan to fight against God—Matt. 16:23; Gal. 5:17.

Day 3

Exodus 17:16

For he said, For there is a hand against the throne of Jah! Jehovah will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Galatians 5:19-21

And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, Envyings, bouts of drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

3. The flesh is the **first among our enemies**, taking the lead over sin, the world, and Satan to fight against us—Rom. 8:3.
 4. God hates the flesh in the same manner that He hates Satan, and He wants to **destroy** the flesh in the **same manner** that He wants to destroy Satan—Exo. 17:16; Deut. 25:17-19; 1 Sam. 15:2-3.
- D. With Amalek there is a **hand against** the throne of the Lord—Exo. 17:16; 1 Sam. 15:22-23:
1. Amalek tried to **overthrow** God's throne, just as Satan once tried to do—Exo. 17:8, 16.
 2. Like Satan himself, the **flesh is against God's authority**—Isa. 14:12-14:
 - a. The flesh is in **rebellion** against God and against His throne.
 - b. Whatever God does governmentally, the **flesh opposes it**.
 3. Our flesh is an **enemy** of God's authority and is in **rebellion** against God's governmental administration:
 - a. The flesh is **most ugly** because it is **against** the throne, the administration, and the plan of God—Rev. 4:2; 5:6; Eph. 3:11.
 - b. Every aspect of our flesh, **whether good or evil**, is an **enemy** of God's authority.
 - c. **Whatever is of the flesh is against God's throne**; it will be used by Satan, the subtle one, the enemy of God, to hinder God's purpose—2 Cor. 2:11.
- E. The **flesh is versus kingship**:
1. **Where the flesh is, there can be no kingdom of God.**
 2. For this reason, the flesh must be **thoroughly dealt with before the kingdom of God can come**.

Under God's guidance, the children of Israel had a goal. This goal was to enter the good land. Amalek's purpose in attacking God's people was to **frustrate them from entering the land**. We also have the goal of entering into the all-inclusive Christ as our good land and possessing Him as this land. We have been saved, we have made a wonderful exodus out of Egypt, we have crossed the Red Sea, and we have journeyed through the wilderness, where we have had a number of marvelous experiences. Nevertheless, we have not yet reached the goal. We have not yet entered into the all-inclusive Christ. Knowing that this goal is ahead of us, the enemy, Amalek, endeavors to **hinder us from reaching this goal**. It is crucial for us to recognize that Satan's aim in stirring up our flesh to fight against us is to **keep us from the full enjoyment of Christ**. The purpose of the flesh in warring against us is to **frustrate us from entering into Christ as the all-inclusive land**. We must admit that not many Christians, even among us, have entered in a complete way into the full enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ. Mainly we have been frustrated by the flesh. Although we may enjoy the Lord in morning watch, the flesh often attacks us soon afterward. This attack may keep us from the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ during the day. As a result, throughout the day we have little enjoyment of Christ. The purpose of the flesh in fighting against us, therefore, is to keep us from the full enjoyment of Christ. (*Life-Study of Exodus, chapter 46*)

Day 4

- 1 Samuel 15:2** Thus says Jehovah of hosts, I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they set themselves against them in the way as they came up out of Egypt.
- Romans 8:13** For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.
- Galatians 5:24** But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

III. In 1 Samuel 15:2 Jehovah declared that He would **punish the Amalekites** for what they did to Israel when they fought against Israel:

- A. Amalek **fought against the children of Israel** as they were journeying to attain to God's goal—Exo. 17:8-16; 1 Sam. 15:2-3:
1. In the war with Amalek described in Exodus 17:8-16, Moses stood on the top of the hill with the staff of God in his hand, and Joshua went out with chosen men to fight against, and to defeat, Amalek.
 2. While Joshua was fighting, **Moses was praying**.
 3. After Joshua defeated Amalek, God declared that He would **"have war with Amalek from generation to generation"** (v. 16); this shows how seriously God regarded the frustration caused by the Amalekites.
- B. Exodus 17:8-13 shows us **how to fight against Amalek**:
1. We fight against Amalek by the **interceding Christ and the fighting Spirit**—Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; Gal. 5:17:
 - a. Moses lifting up his hand on the mountaintop typifies the **ascended Christ interceding in the heavens**—Exo. 17:9, 11.
 - b. Joshua fighting against Amalek typifies the **indwelling Spirit fighting against the flesh**—vv. 9, 13.
 - c. We need to be **in union** with the interceding Christ in order to **cooperate** with the fighting Spirit—Col. 3:1-3, 5; Rom. 8:34, 13; Gal. 5:24, 17.
 2. In the battle against Amalek, we need to **cooperate with the Lord by praying and by putting the flesh to death**—Luke 18:1; 1 Thes. 5:17; Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24:
 - a. When we **pray**, we are **one with the interceding Christ**—Rom. 8:34.
 - b. When we **put the flesh to death**, we are **one with the fighting Spirit**—Gal. 5:17.
 - c. On the one hand, we must **pray with Christ**; on the other hand, we must **slay the flesh by the fighting Spirit**—v. 24.
 - d. **Crucifying the old man** was God's responsibility; **crucifying the flesh** is our responsibility—Rom. 6:6; 8:13; Gal. 5:24.

Day 5

- 1 Samuel 15:22-23** And Samuel said, / Does Jehovah delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices / As much as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? / Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, / And to heed, than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, / And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim. / Because you have rejected the word of Jehovah, / He has also rejected you from being king.

IV. God commanded Saul to **"strike the Amalekites"** and to **"utterly destroy all that they have"** and not spare them, but **he did not obey Jehovah's command**—1 Sam. 15:3-9:

- A. Saul killed the Amalekites, but he spared Agag the king and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good—vv. 7-9.
- B. Saul and the people's sparing the best part of the things that they should have utterly destroyed portrays the fact that, experientially, we **treasure the good aspects of our flesh, our natural life, and do not wish to destroy them**:
1. Whatever we do **apart** from God's grace and **apart** from depending on Him and trusting in Him is of the flesh—Phil. 3:3-4.
 2. Every aspect of the flesh, **whether good or evil, is in opposition** to grace and God's kingdom and keeps us from enjoying Christ; therefore, we must hate every aspect of the flesh and be absolute in destroying the flesh—Rom. 8:13; Gal. 3:3; 5:2-4.

- C. God did not want Saul to use the best of the cattle as a sacrifice to Him—1 Sam. 15:15:
1. Anything presented and sacrificed to God that has **its source in the flesh is evil in His sight**—v. 19.
 2. To offer something to God **according to our own will is presumptuous and is sinful**—Gen. 4:5; Matt. 7:22-23.

V. Doing good according to our own will is actually an act of rebellion against God's throne and His economy—1 Sam. 15:22-23; Exo. 17:16:

- A. Saul's **disobedience** exposed him as being a **rebel** against God and an enemy of God—1 Sam. 22:17.
- B. Saul was **utterly rebellious toward God**; he had no subordination to God, nor did he take God as his King and Head.
- C. He was **constituted with rebellion**, which is as evil as the worship of idols—15:23.
- D. What Saul did was as evil as **contacting an evil spirit** for the purpose of carrying out the intention of that spirit, not God's intention—v. 23.
- E. All rebellion is a matter of **presumption**, a matter of **daring to do things without God**.

Day 6

Galatians 5:24-25 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.

VI. Saul lost his kingship because he did not utterly destroy Amalek—vv. 26, 28:

- A. If we are not absolute in dealing with our flesh, we, like Saul, **will lose our kingship**—1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10.
- B. The account of Saul's **disobedience** is a warning, indicating that we should not do anything in the kingdom of God by our flesh; in everything we must **crucify our flesh** and **faithfully exercise our spirit** to follow the Lord, who is the life-giving, consummated Spirit indwelling our spirit and who is one with us—1 Cor. 15:45; 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22; Gal. 5:16, 25.
- C. When Amalek is dealt with, the **kingdom of God immediately comes in**—Exo. 18:1-26:
 1. The kingdom of God denotes the **authority of God** by which all things are made subject to God—Mark 1:15; John 3:3, 5; Rev. 11:15; 12:10; Dan. 2:44.
 2. Because the flesh is versus the kingship, the **flesh must be thoroughly dealt with** before the kingdom of God can come in—1 Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:5.
- D. **If we follow the Lord's word to utterly destroy the flesh and live and walk according to the spirit, we will have the kingship and will be in God's kingdom**—Rom. 8:4; 14:17; Gal. 5:19-21; 2 Pet. 1:5-11.

The first point in dealing with the flesh is that we must **know what the flesh is and sense the flesh within us**. In spiritual experience, all dealings are based on our knowledge and sense regarding that very matter. The degree to which we have attained in our knowledge will be the degree to which we have dealings. The thoroughness and depth of our dealing is according to our knowledge and sense in this matter. Therefore, if we wish to have a real experience in dealing with the flesh, we need to have a clear knowledge and sense of the flesh.

The meaning of the flesh has three aspects, namely: the **corrupted flesh**, the **whole fallen man**, and the **aspect of man's good**. It is easier for us to discern the flesh as the corrupted body, that is the corrupted aspect of the flesh; therefore, the first stage in our dealing with the flesh is more in this aspect. But as we go on with the Lord, we need to have a deeper knowledge and dealing concerning the other two aspects of the flesh. Not only should we know that **sinning, losing our temper, and doing other evil things** are of the flesh, but we should also realize that even the **matter of worshipping and serving God, plus the matter of godliness, can also be full of the flesh**. Plainly, whatever we do must be the outcome of our touching the Lord and the Spirit while in fellowship, and we must do it by trusting in God; otherwise, **no matter how good it is, we must still condemn it as something of the flesh**.

The second point in dealing with the flesh is that we **must know the position of the flesh before God**. We must receive light from the Bible to see **how the flesh resists God and is in enmity toward God**. We also need to see how the nature of the flesh is incompatible with God, how God rejects it and considers it abominable, and how He has determined to exterminate it and have no coexistence with it. This revelation will cause us to see as God sees, condemn what God condemns, and annihilate what God annihilates. Then we will seek release from the flesh, cooperate with God, and let the Holy Spirit put our flesh to death.

The third point in dealing with the flesh is that **we must know the relationship and difference between the flesh and the old man**. We should see that the old man, or our old I, is the real being of the flesh, and that the **flesh is the expression of the old man** or the old I. When the old man, or our old I, is being lived out in our experience, it is the flesh. Therefore, dealing with the flesh is entirely a matter of experience—that of dealing with the old man in a practical way. (*The Experience of Life, Chapter 9*)

