
1 Samuel 15
DON'T SPARE AGAG
Don't Try To Rationalize Your Disobedience

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- Saul is chosen & anointed to be king over Israel (1 Sam. 9; cf. 8:3-21)
- Two chapters in First Samuel stand out as turning points in the life of king Saul. (13 & 15)

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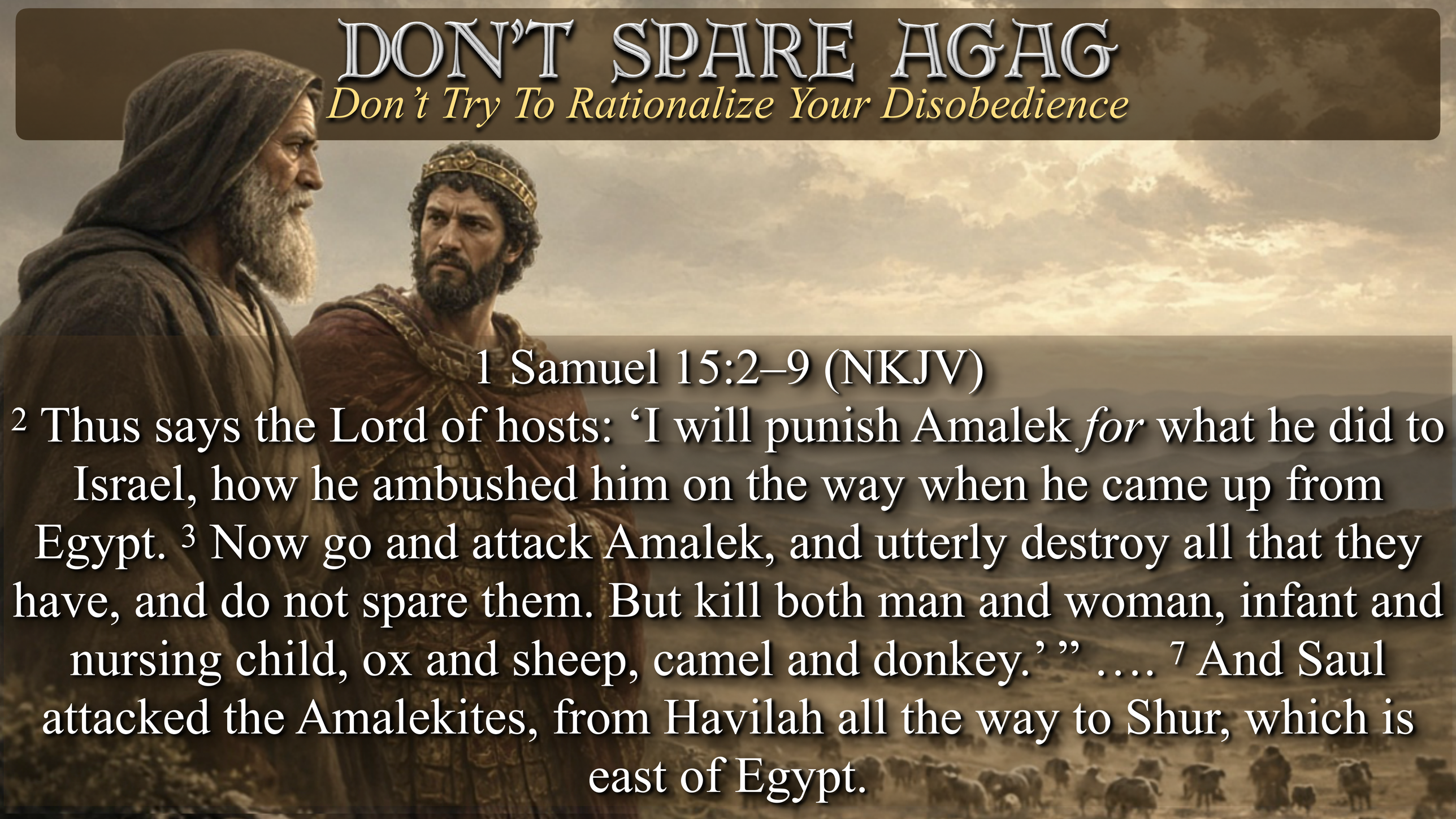
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- Amalekites had previously attacked Israel in Rephidim (Ex. 17:8-14)
- God promised to destroy the Amalekites when Israel had rest in Canaan (Dt. 25:17-19)
- Saul was to carry out God's vengeance against them (1 Sam 15:1-3).

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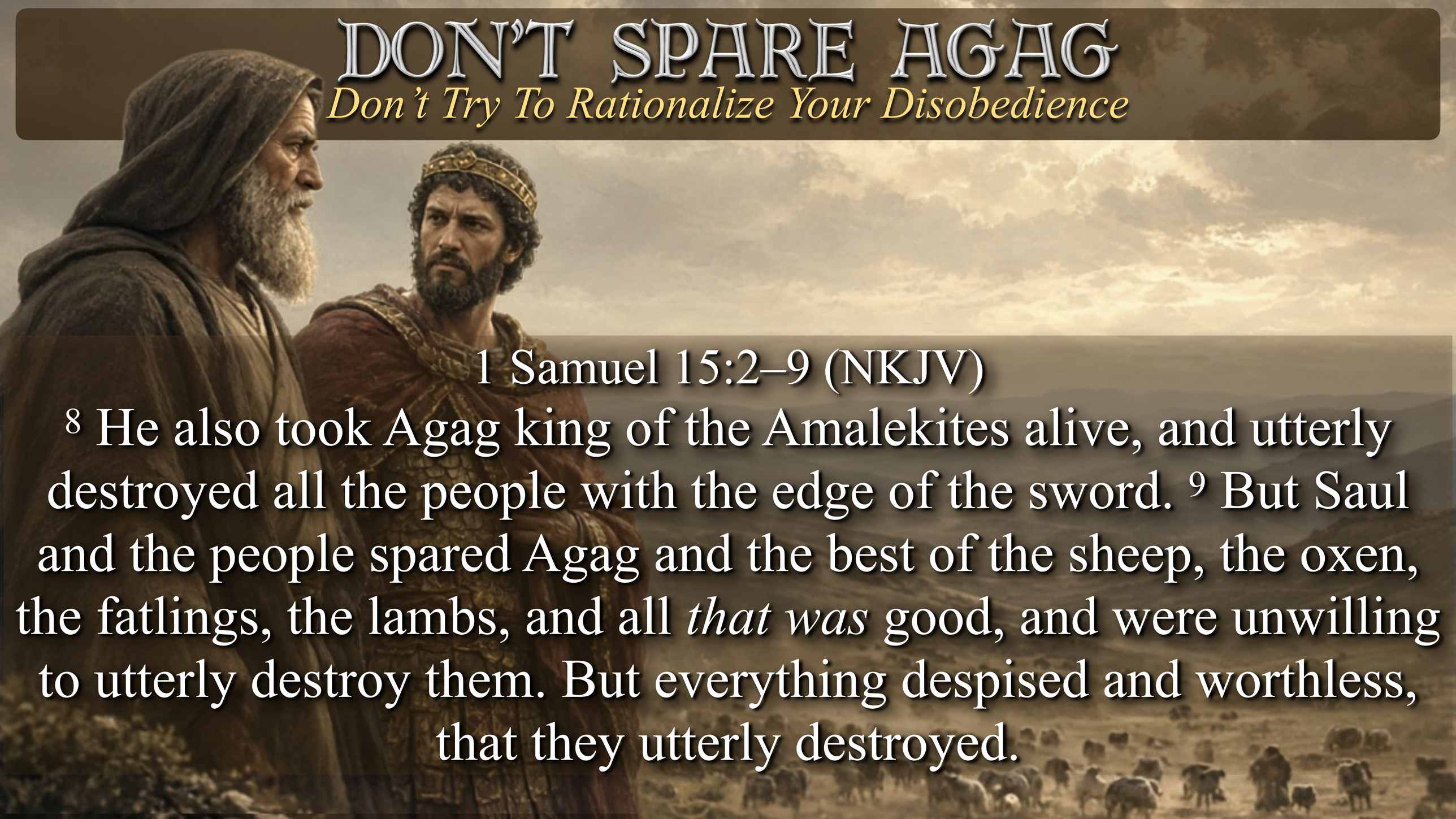


1 Samuel 15:2–9 (NKJV)

2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek *for* what he did to
Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from
Egypt. 3 Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they
have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and
nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' " …. 7 And Saul
attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is
east of Egypt.

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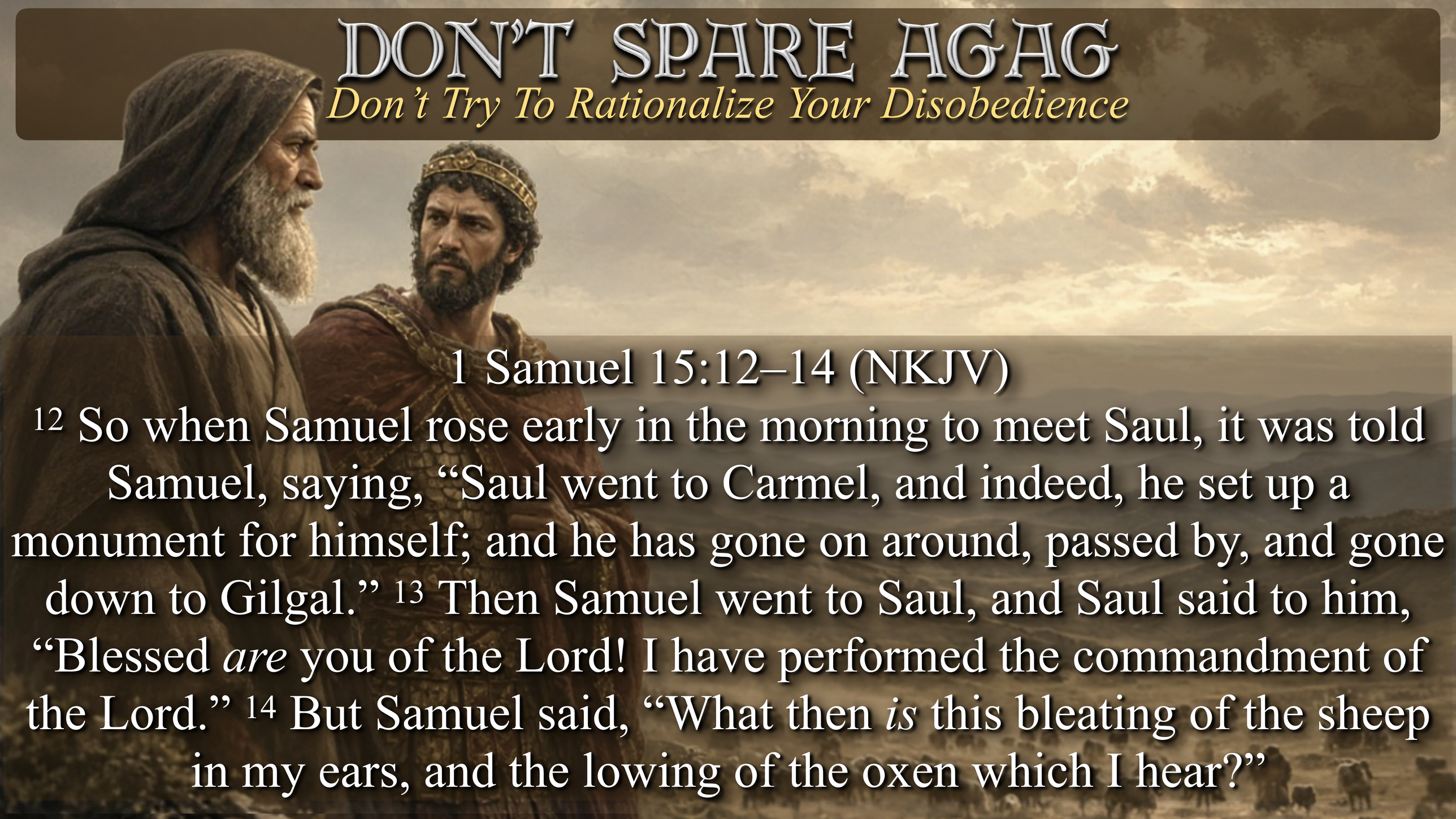


1 Samuel 15:2–9 (NKJV)

8 He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all *that was* good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

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1 Samuel 15:12–14 (NKJV)

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told
Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a
monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone
down to Gilgal." 13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him,
"Blessed *are* you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of
the Lord." 14 But Samuel said, "What then *is* this bleating of the sheep
in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- **DENIAL** *(I have Obeyed The Lord …)*
  - *"Blessed are you of the Lord" {15:13}*
  - *"I have performed the commandment of the Lord" {15:13}*
  - *"I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, … I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. {15:20}*

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- **DENIAL** *(I have Obeyed The Lord …)*
  - *Saul defined partial obedience as full compliance that should be rewarded.*
  - *Any "almost" or "mostly" compliance that edits God's word is still disobedience. (the rich young ruler Mark 10, or the Pharisees' precise tithing while neglecting weightier matters in Matthew 23:23).*

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- **DENIAL** *(I have Obeyed The Lord …)*

Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV)

13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- **DENIAL** *(I have Obeyed The Lord …)*

1 John 1:8–10 (NKJV)

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- **EXCUSES** *Saul tried to shift blame:*
  - *"They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen," [15:15]*
  - *"But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed" [15:21]*

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I WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY OWN ACTIONS (cf Gen 3:12,13)

Ezekiel 18:20 (NKJV)

20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

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I WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY OWN ACTIONS (cf Gen 3:12,13)

Romans 2:6–8 (NKJV)

6 who *"will render to each one according to his deeds"*: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,

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I WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY OWN ACTIONS (cf Gen 3:12,13)

Galatians 6:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- PRAGMATISM - *Saul claimed his purposes were good:*
  - *"and brought back Agag king of Amalek;" [15:20]*
  - *"in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal." [15:21]*
- The end does NOT justify the means (cf Rom 3:8; 15:21-23)

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- FEAR OF PEOPLE / concern for reputation over God
  - *"I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice" [15:24]*

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- Half-hearted or delayed confession without corresponding action:

1 Samuel 15:24 (NKJV)

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- Half-hearted or delayed confession without corresponding action:

1 Samuel 15:30 (NKJV)

30 Then he said, "I have sinned; *yet* honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God."

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- Half-hearted or delayed confession without corresponding action:
  - *He eventually says "I have sinned," yet again blames others {15:24}*
  - *Again he proclaims "I have sinned," but seeks public honor {15:30}.*
  - *True dealing with sin is remorseful and only concerned with God's will.*

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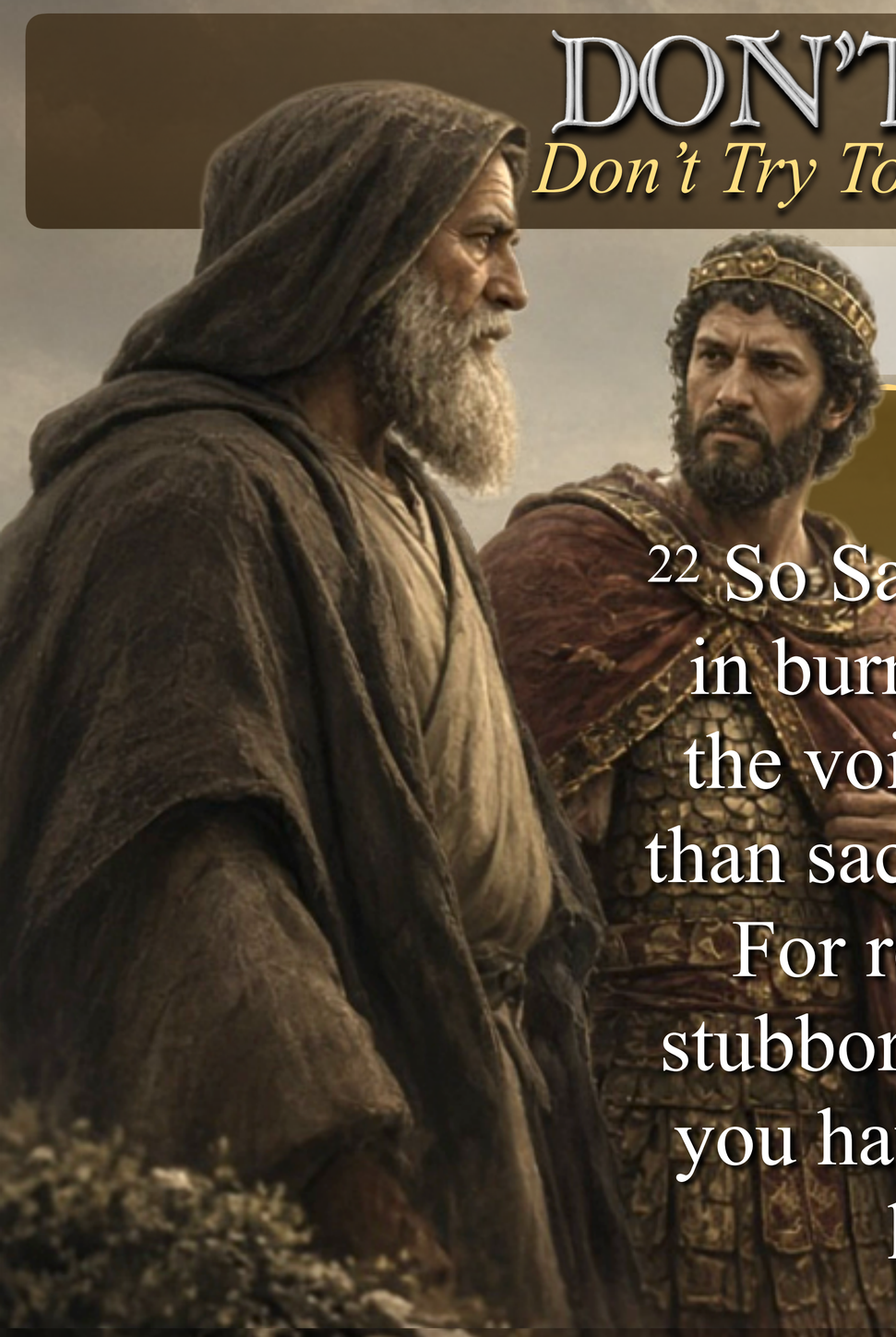


Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

- Selective Comparison {2 Cor 10:12}
- Claim ignorance {Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:30}
- Claim moderation {Eph 5:3-7; 1 Thes 5:22; Heb 2:1-3}
- I'm the victim {1 Pet 2:18-23}
- Procrastination {Acts 24:25}

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Wrong Ways To Deal With Sin

1 Samuel 15:22–23 (NKJV)

22 So Samuel said: "Has the Lord *as great* delight
in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying
the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better
than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams. 23
For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, And
stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because
you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also
has rejected you from *being* king."

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SIN MUST BE DEALT WITH

- Obey God's Word without editing (15:3, 18, 33)
- Confess without making excuses (Psalm 51:4; Luke 18:13; 1 John 1:9).
- Execute judgment on the sin itself by executing it (Romans 6; Col. 3:5)
- Value obedience above "religious" substitutes (15:22–23;)

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SIN MUST BE DEALT WITH

- With God's help & provisions [Eph. 6:10-18; Jam 4:6-10; 2 Pet. 1:5-10]
- Ruthlessly [Mat. 5:29,30; 18:8,9; Rom 13:13,14]
- Completely / fully [2 Cor. 10:5; Eph. 6:16; Heb 12:1]
- Quickly [1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Thes. 5:22; 2 Cor. 6:2; Rom. 13:11,12]

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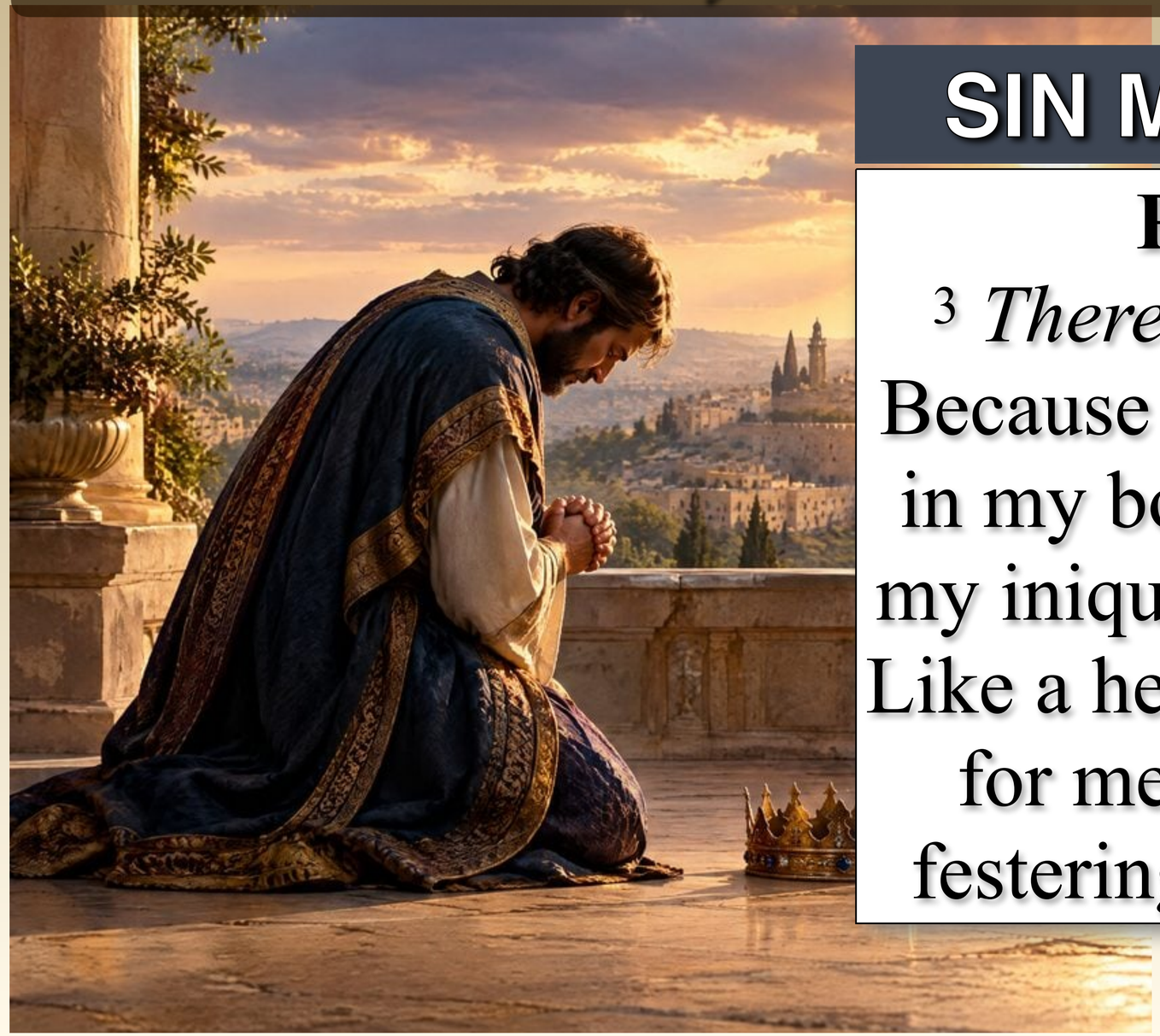


SIN MUST BE DEALT WITH

- Recognize how horrible sin is to a "holy" God (Hab. 1:13; 1 Pet. 1:15,16)
- Be led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:12-14; [vss. 1-8]; Gal 5:16).
- Draw closer to the Lord (Rom 13:14; Col. 3:10-12; Tit. 2:14; 3:14).
- Do whatever it takes to avoid sin (Rom. 13:14; Matt. 5:27-30; 1 Pet. 2:11; 1 Cor. 10:13)

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SIN MUST BE DEALT WITH

Psalm 38:3–5 (NKJV)

3 *There is* no soundness in my flesh
Because of Your anger, Nor *any* health
in my bones Because of my sin. 4 For
my iniquities have gone over my head;
Like a heavy burden they are too heavy
for me. 5 My wounds are foul *and*
festering Because of my foolishness.

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SIN MUST BE DEALT WITH

Psalm 51:1–4 (NKJV)

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to
Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude
of Your tender mercies, Blot out my
transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my
iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I
acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is*
always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have
I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight— That
You may be found just when You speak, *And*
blameless when You judge.

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SIN MUST BE DEALT WITH

- Conversion requires an execution (Rom. 6:3-6).
- Baptism does not end our conflict with sin (Acts 2:38-42; Rom. 6:3-23; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:16-21).
- God commands us to CONTINUE to put sin to death (Mat. 5:29,30; Rom. 6; 8:12,13; Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5-8).

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- Selective Obedience is Disobedience (We must do all God says, the way God says)
- Sacrifice Without Submission (Religious ritual without true, humble obedience is worthless)
- We MUST Kill What God Has Told You to Kill

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- This battle between us and sin will never end, but the key is that we actively engage in combat, not denying our sins but confessing them (1 John 1:8-9).
- If we do not commit ourselves to merciless combat against sin, some day, like Saul, it will come back to haunt and destroy us.

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- Those not in Christ must hear the truth, believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, confess Him, repent, & be baptized into Him (Acts 2:38)
- The proper way for God's people to deal with their sins and receive forgiveness is to confess these sins, repent, and pray to God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22).



1 Samuel 15

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And Try To Rationalize Your Disobedience

Charts by Don McClain

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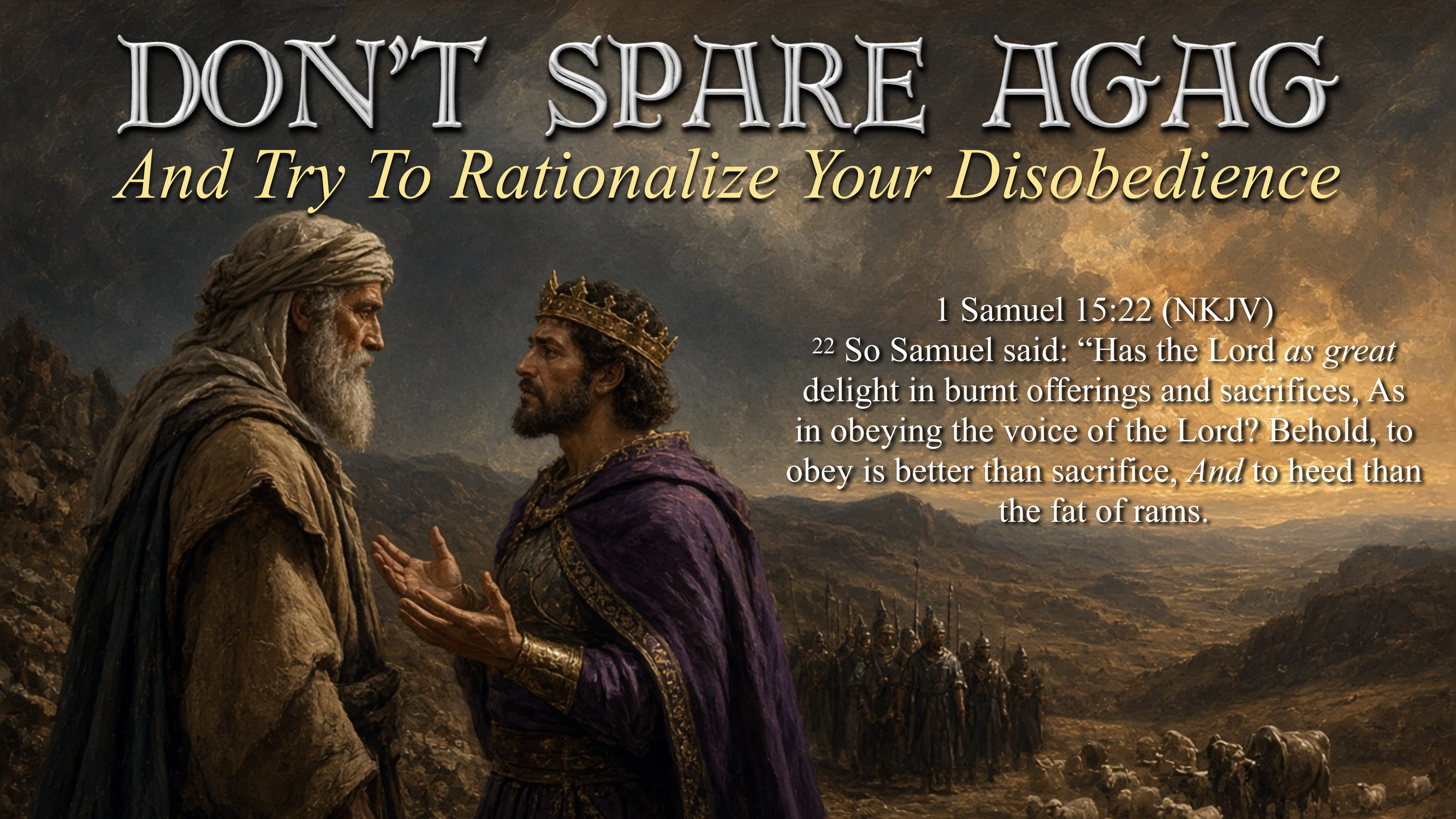
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