



Part 14 - "Trusting God with the Unthinkable" | 1 Samuel 15 | March 1st, 2026

→ The tension in the text — 1 Samuel 15:3

- On the surface, this doesn't sound like God's character (Exodus 34:6-7)
- However, consider God's judgment on the earth (Genesis 6), Sodom & Gomorrah (Genesis 19), and Egyptian firstborn sons (Exodus 12)
- This was a unique moment in Israel's history. They functioned as the instrument of God's judgment. That's not the role of the Church today.
- The text is asking us: **Will we trust God** even in the most awful circumstances?

→ Consider Samuel

- Samuel trusted the LORD because he knew His character
 - Hannah's influence (1 Samuel 2:2-3, 6)
 - Samuel's own experience (1 Samuel 3:19-21) lines up with God's Word

→ The Progression of Fear to Deception

- **The Enemy's Strategy:** Distort reality, magnify the threat, and slowly erode our trust in God (Genesis 3)
- **The Enemy's Goal:** Replace trust with deception (Genesis 4; James 1:22)

→ 1 Samuel 15 Notes

- (v3, 8-9, 15) "totally/completely destroy"
 - the Hebrew means: "to devote to the LORD" (give over for judgment)

- (v3, 9, 15) “Do not spare” vs. “Saul and the army spared”
- (v12) Saul’s monument signals his heart failure (v11 “turned away”)
- (v13-21) Saul *believed* he obeyed the LORD — **Fear matured into deception**
 - James 1:22 — self deception
- (v21) “the LORD **your** God” — Saul distancing himself from Yahweh
- (v23) Saul “rejected the word of the LORD” (echos 1 Samuel 8:7)
 - He “edited” God’s command (1 Samuel 15:20-21)

➔ **Consider This:** Obedience isn’t simply about understanding God’s commands. It’s about trusting Him... even when we don’t understand.

➔ **Jesus said:** “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and **whoever lives by believing in me will never die**. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)

- In light of 1 Samuel 15:3 — In the grand scheme of eternity, do I trust the LORD to do what’s right for those kids? Do I trust God’s character?

➔ **Going Deeper:**

- When you think about 1 Samuel 15:3, what emotions surface?
What might those emotions reveal about how you see God’s character?
- Read Psalm 145. Which attributes of God stand out to you in this Psalm? How do these truths help us with difficult passages like 1 Samuel 15:3?
- What would it look like for you to trust God’s character this week, especially in areas you don’t fully understand?