

# 1 Samuel 28:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor  
executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the  
LORD done this thing unto thee this day.

## Analysis

Samuel identifies the specific sin that sealed Saul's fate: failure to execute divine judgment on Amalek (chapter 15). The Hebrew 'lo shama'ta beqol YHWH' (you did not obey the voice of the LORD) echoes Samuel's earlier rebuke. The phrase 'fierce wrath' (Hebrew: 'charon-'af') indicates intense divine anger requiring expression through judgment. Saul's partial obedience, sparing Agag and the best livestock, constituted complete disobedience. This principle reverberates through Scripture: obedience must be whole, not selective.

## Historical Context

The Amalekite campaign (1 Samuel 15) was explicitly designed to execute divine judgment for Amalek's attack on Israel at the Exodus. Saul's sparing of Agag and the best spoils was presented as honoring God but actually elevated human judgment above divine command.

## Related Passages

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What acts of partial obedience have you rationalized as acceptable?
2. How does this passage clarify the nature of true obedience versus selective compliance?

## Interlinear Text

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עָשָׂה וְלֹא יְהִי הַבָּקָר וְלֹא שָׁמַע עַתָּה  
Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD I have done  
H834 H8085 H6963 H3068 H3808 H6213

לֹא עָשָׂה בְּעַמֵּל קָרְבָּן הַבָּקָר אַפְּנֵי תְּרֻמָּה  
his fierce wrath upon Amalek this thing I have done  
H2740 H639 H6002 H5921 H3651 H1697 H2088 H6213 H0

בְּזַהֲהָה יְהִי וּמְלֵאָה  
of the LORD unto thee this day I have done  
H3068 H3117 H2088

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 20:42** (References Lord): And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.

**1 Samuel 15:9** (Parallel theme): 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 every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.