

# 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

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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

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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

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**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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בְּאֵשׁ רָ	לֹא	שָׁמַעְתָּ	בְּקוֹל	יְהוָה	וְלֹא	עָשָׂה	
Because	H3808	thou obeyedst	not the voice	of the LORD	H3808	done	
H834		H8085	H6963	H3068		H6213	
חֲרוֹן	אֵפֹר	בְּעֵמֶלֶק	עַל	כֵּן	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה	עָשָׂה
his fierce	wrath	upon Amalek	H5921	H3651	this thing	H2088	done
H2740	H639	H6002			H1697		H0
יְהוָה	הִי	הַזֶּה:					
of the LORD	unto thee this day	H2088					
H3068	H3117						

## 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.