

Deuteronomy 25:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

Analysis

Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt—referring to Exodus 17:8-16, when Amalekites attacked Israel at Rephidim shortly after the Red Sea crossing. This begins the three-verse command (25:17-19) requiring Amalek's eventual destruction. **Remember** (zachor, זיכר) isn't passive recollection but active, purposeful memorial leading to action. The command demands perpetual enmity toward Amalek, Israel's first enemy after liberation.

Amalek's attack wasn't territorial dispute or resource competition but unprovoked assault on vulnerable refugees. The timing—immediately after Egypt's defeat and during Israel's wilderness vulnerability—revealed Amalek's character: opportunistic predation on the weak. God took Amalek's attack personally (Exodus 17:16): 'The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.' Israel's memory of Amalek embodied remembrance of those who oppose God's redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

Spoken circa 1406 BC, forty years after Amalek's attack (circa 1446 BC). The Amalekites were nomadic descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:12) inhabiting the Negev and Sinai regions. Their attack at Rephidim occurred during Israel's early wilderness journey, when the nation was disorganized, unarmed, and exhausted. Later interactions (Numbers 14:45, Judges 3:13, 6:3) showed Amalek's persistent

hostility. Saul's incomplete obedience to this command (1 Samuel 15) cost him the kingdom; Haman the Agagite (Esther 3:1) descended from Amalekite royalty.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does God command perpetual remembrance of Amalek's sin? What does this reveal about divine justice?
2. How does Amalek symbolically represent opposition to God's purposes and persecution of His people?
3. What does Saul's failure to fully obey this command (1 Samuel 15) teach about partial obedience?

Interlinear Text

בְּזִבְחָה	עַמְלֵל	לְקַדְשָׁה	בְּזִבְחָה
Remember	H853	H834	did
H2142		H6213	H0
			what Amalek
			H6002
			unto thee by the way
			H1870

בָּאָתֶךָ מִמִּצְרָיִם:	when ye were come forth
H4714	H3318

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