



*Lessons on Wholehearted
Obedience from Saul's life
found in the
book of 1 Samuel*

*Be Truly
SORRY
and not
"SAUL-ly"*



Timothy Keller (1950-2023)

*"All death can
now do to
Christians is to
make their lives
infinitely
better."*

The Importance of having the right King:

(14) If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will following the Lord your God, it will be well. (15) But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king."

1 Samuel 12:14-15 (ESV)

People wanted a human king to be like the other nations.

"Why do we try so hard to be like everyone around us, when we were made to be different?"

-Pastor David "Dok" Kim

A DIFFICULT COMMAND:

Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child, and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.

-1 Samuel 15:3 (ESV)

Understanding Difficult Bible Issues:

*WHOLE COUNSEL OF SCRIPTURE

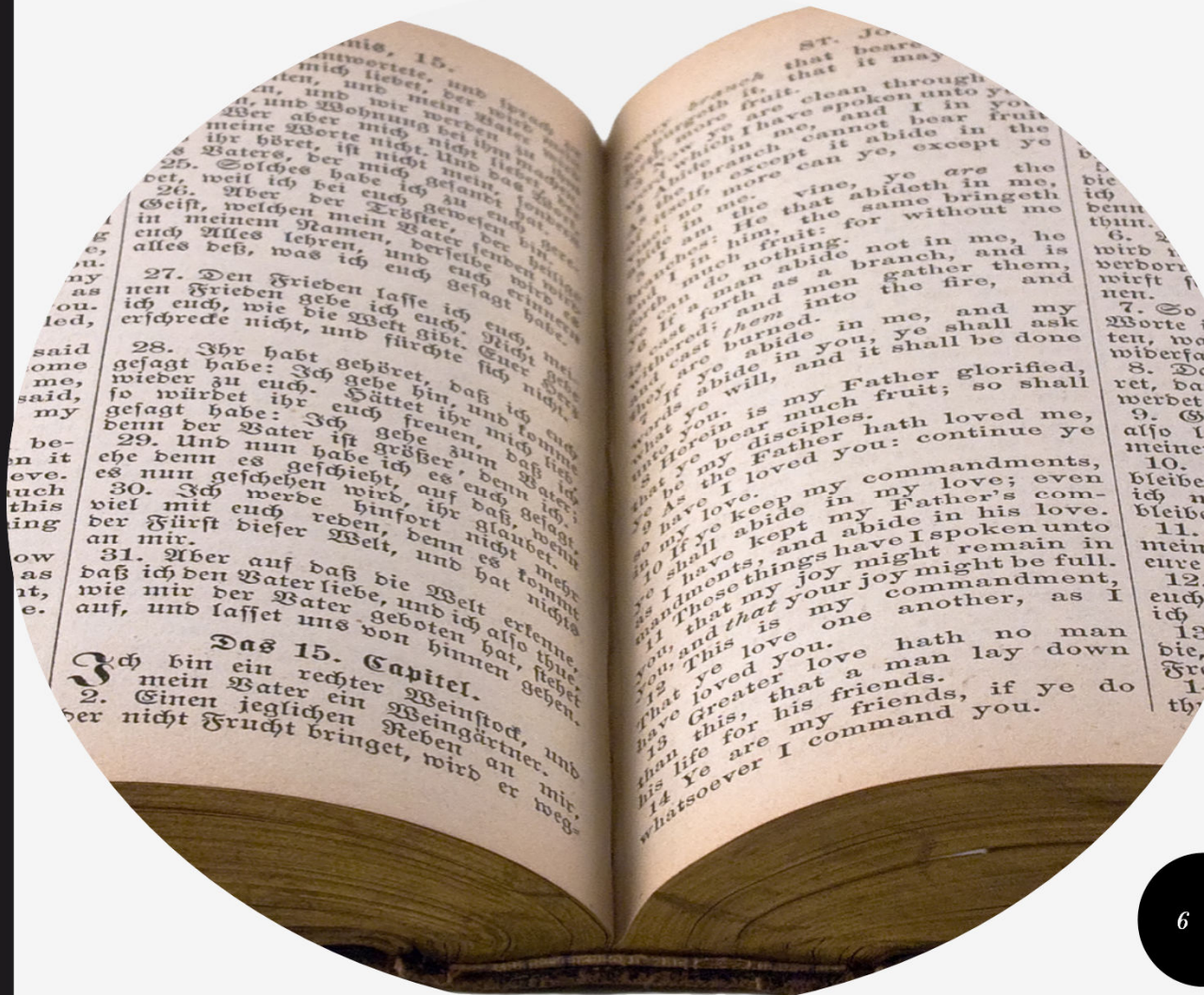
*WHERE THE BIBLE IS BEING DESCRIPTIVE
VERSUS PRESCRIPTIVE.

(LOOKING FOR PATTERNS
AND PRINCIPLES)

*CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT.

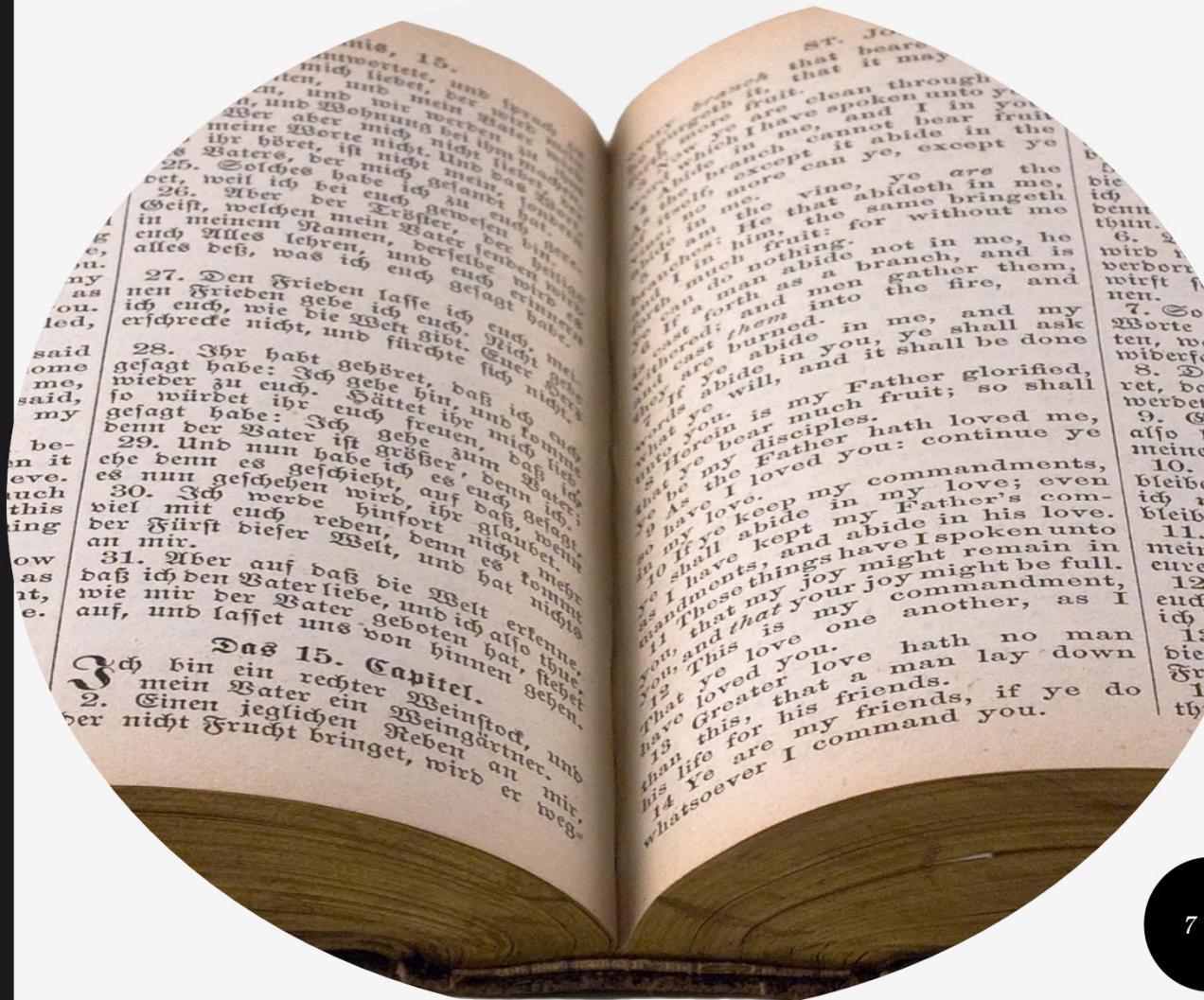
(ESPECIALLY AS IT COMES TO
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES THAT ARE HOT
BUTTONS IN OUR CULTURE.

*PROGRESSIVE REVELATION.



When applying any teaching of the Bible to life, the teaching must be taken at its highest point of revelation. This makes what God has revealed in Jesus Christ the ultimate basis of interpreting the rest of the Bible.

Preacher's Commentary



The Context of God's Command to King Saul:

"A Previous Promise"

Thus says the LORD of hosts, I have noted what Amalek did in Israel in opposing them on the way when they came out of Egypt. (1 Samuel 15:2 ESV)

(17) Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, (18) how he attacked you on the way when you wear faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God. (19) Therefore, when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget.

(Deut. 25:17-19 ESV)



God is not man, that he should lie or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

(Numbers 23:19 ESV)

*National Identity for ancients like
Israel and Amalek bound up in:*

Their Particular Place (The Promised Land)

*Their Particular People Group (History with
Amalekites- tormenting God's people violently).*

Their Particular God (Yahweh)

Some thoughts from David Platt

-God is a holy, good, and loving Creator.

-"Holy War" in the Bible is "divine warfare."

-Divine Warfare is commanded by a merciful God.

-Divine warfare is elimination of false worship.

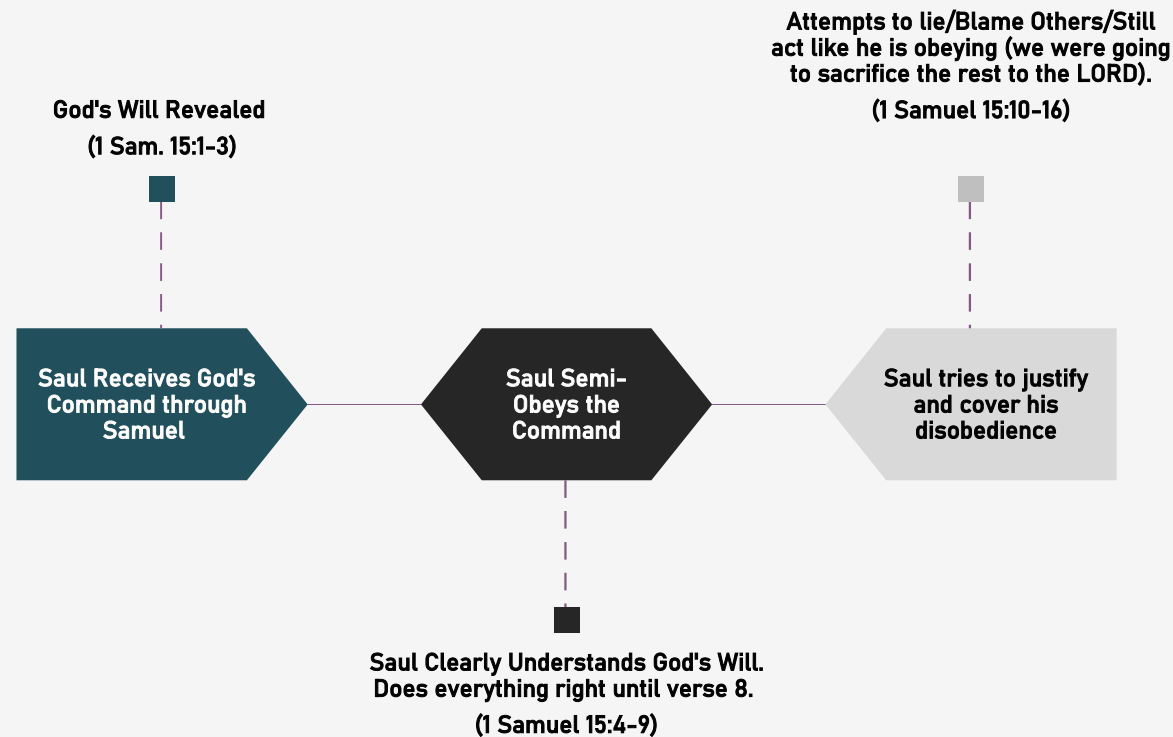
-Justice is meted out communally in divine warfare.

*A difficult
command!*

OBEDIENCE TAKES COURAGE

Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child, and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."

1 SAMUEL 15:3 (ESV)



Saul's Spiral:

1 Samuel 13: Did not wait for Samuel to offer sacrifice to the LORD.

1 Samuel 16: The Spirit of God left him. Troubling Spirit- David played music to soothe him.

1 Samuel 18: Jealous of David (thousands vs ten-thousands) -Tries to get David killed by Philistines. (Promises daughter to David but asks for him to perform task to endanger his life. Ends up giving her in marriage to someone else).

1 Samuel 19: Tries to personally kill David.

1 Samuel 28: Consults a witch.

1 Samuel 31: Dies on battlefield (Commits Suicide).
