



# The Planter

“The seed is the word of God”, Luke 8:11



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## DID GOD COMMAND THE ISRAELITES TO KILL BABIES?

Carl Pollard

Quite possibly one of the most difficult passages to read is 1 Samuel 15:3. In this verse God commands the Israelites to kill the Amalekites and He specifically says, “kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.” This verse is used by many to discredit the Bible and mock those that believe in a “God that murders babies.”

At first glance, this verse appears to be morally wrong. Did God really command the Israelites to commit infanticide? If He did, why would we serve a God like that? Why take the time to pursue a relationship with God knowing that He shed innocent blood? Doesn't Proverbs 6:17 say that God “hates hands that shed innocent blood?” Maybe God's a hypocrite and there's a double standard. Maybe God doesn't really love His creation. Maybe we serve a God that isn't as pure and holy as He claims to be. Or maybe there's a reason why God gave this command.

1 Samuel 15:3 can be better understood if we recognize several important facts.

The Context. In order to properly handle God's Word, we can't just pick a verse and read it in isolation. So it is important that we read the context. Verse two shows us that the Amalekites attacked Israel on their journey out of Egypt. In return God promised to one day utterly destroy the nation (Deut. 25:17-19). From the moment the Amalekites chose to fight the nation of Israel, their fate was sealed...but not immediately. Exodus 17:8-16 records the events that took place and God says, “the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.” 1 Samuel 15:3 is God keeping His word.

Biblical and secular history. The Amalekites were recorded as being ruthless and cruel. They would actively search for pregnant women and kill their babies before killing the mother. In raids they would kill women, children, and everything else. They killed for sport and they raided places for fun. They didn't fight other nations trying to

protect themselves or their land, they just enjoyed slaughtering people and taking their stuff. The Amalekites were known for their cruelty, but also their hate for the Israelites. History also reveals that the Amalekites required that any and every living offspring was to avenge any nation or people that attacked them. This is seen with the Israelites in scripture. For 300 years the people of Israel fought with them. “Generation after generation” experienced war with the Amalekites. 300 years God let the murdering of His own chosen people to happen.

Why did God let them do this for so long? Well, why did God save Rahab? Or tell Noah to warn the sinful people about the flood? Why did God promise not to destroy a city if there were just ten righteous people in it? Why did God send prophet after prophet to warn the Israelites of their sin? Why did God allow His own creation to spit on, mock and crucify His only Son? Because God is a God of mercy and second chances. The Amalekites were given 300 years to repent, but 1 Samuel 15:3 is the result of their lack of repentance. God warned them what would happen, and there had to be punishment for sin.

But what about the innocent children and babies? Do you think God knew their future and what they would eventually become? God would never destroy a person that wanted to be saved. God wants everyone to come to repentance. 300 years of children and not a single one came to God and asked for repentance. God knows a whole lot more than we do. He has a perfect knowledge of the past, present and future. Since the culture of the Amalekites demanded that their offspring continue to murder and raid, the killing of the Israelites never ceased. If only a select group were killed, the problem would persist in the future as it had in the past.

God cannot sin, and in His infinite knowledge He gave a command that was without sin. A sinful nation that refused to acknowledge God had to face the consequences. On the judgement day there will be many people who are punished because of their sin. God in His mercy has given us a way to be saved, but it is up to each individual to make the decision that will ultimately lead to either torment or salvation. God is patient and loving, but He is also holy and righteous in His judgment.

## Christianity at a Great Bargain

**March 15, 2026**

Sunday Morning  
Opening Prayer Adam Cordell  
Closing Prayer Bo Eubanks  
  
Scripture Reading Steve Fletcher

Sunday Evening  
Opening Prayer Jeff Duncan  
Closing Prayer Jim Warnock

### Remember in prayer:

Luke Keller, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Joan Henry, Norene and Ronnie O'Kelly, Don Duncan, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hogle, Sammy Wyers.

**Oak View Nursing Home:** Betty Floyd.

**Josh Robinson** with The Manna Project will speak tonight and give a report on his work.

**Brothers Keeper Groups One and Two** will meet after services night.

Please remember the **Teacher's Luncheon** after services today.

Our annual **Men's Day** will be this Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, with Bill Watkins.

The Pennville Church of Christ will have a Gospel Meeting beginning next Sunday through Wednesday night. **Jamie Davis** is the speaker.

Record for the week of March 8, 2026  
10 am 11 am 5 pm Wed Contribution  
87 85 78 86 \$3475.70

People love bargains (Black Friday anyone?). We look for discounts, sales, freebies, and products at the best value. We look for deals on clothes, groceries, furniture, and just about everything else. In most aspects of life, we love to cut corners or get the most out of something without having to give up as much. Unfortunately, sometimes we also look for Christianity at a bargain as well.

What do we mean by "bargain Christianity"? Think of it this way, every religion claims to be able to show how to get to heaven, but nearly every one of them has a different way to get there. As a result, many people end up settling for the "brand of Christianity" that requires the least amount of effort from them. They want to get to heaven at a bargain price.

Honestly, if there were multiple ways to get to heaven, we would most definitely choose the easiest one. This isn't the reality though. Even though another religion may seem like a steal, they will prove to be nothing more than a gimmick or a knockoff of true Christianity. Scripture has always made it clear that there is a very specific and limited way to reach heaven. Jesus said in the singular tense, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). To make it even clearer, Jesus talked about one, and only one, road that leads to life, and the other road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). The inspired apostle Paul reinforced this idea by saying, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

There is no such thing as a "bargain Christianity." Either we are a part of the one and only church found in Scripture (Acts 2:37-47), or we are being deceived by Satan and those who are "disguised as servants of righteousness" (2 Corinthians 11:14-15; 4:3-4; Matthew 7:21-23). The only way to know the truth is to line up with the Bible's commands.

Are you part of the one church found in Scripture? Would you like to know more about the Christianity found in the Bible? Do you have questions? If so, please let us know so we can study and find the truth together.

### Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

**Deacons:** Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

**Minister:** Hugh Glaze

**Song Leader:** Adam Morgan