

In the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy, we are told the Lord commanded the ancient Israelites to completely blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. But who were these people and what did they do to merit extermination?

We read in Genesis that Jacob's brother Esau had many sons, who eventually formed into tribes. Amalek was actually Esau's grandson, and was one of the leading tribes of Esau, or Edom, another name for him in Scripture.

In Exodus chapter seventeen, we are told the Amalekites attacked the children of Israel on their journey to the Promised Land, when they were tired and weary, and brutally struck down all of them that lagged behind.

It is actually in this same chapter of Exodus that we hear mention for the first time of the complete destruction of the Amalekites, only it is God Himself who promises to do it. Moses wrote His words, "*I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.*" In First Samuel, we see a direct fulfilment of the Lord's promise! He commanded King Saul in these terms:

Now go and attack Amalek and utterly destroy 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 15:3-4)

Saul went and carried out these orders; he utterly destroyed the Amalekites with the sword. However, he spared their king, Agag, and the best of the sheep and cattle, together with all that was of material value.

This disobedience led to the loss of the kingship for Saul. After rebuking him, the Prophet Samuel slew Agag himself. Both history and archaeology prove the ancient Philistines met with the same fate as the Amalekites, as the Old Testament Prophets declared they would!

Therefore, as many Jewish and non-Jewish scholars have pointed out, to contemporize the meaning of these biblical texts, equating other historical individuals or people groups with the ancient Amalekites, is a complete and deliberate misreading of both biblical and secular history!