

Pastor Ron Case
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“Goat Reduction”

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8:29)

Dead Goat/Living Goat

Leviticus 16:7-10 – (7) “Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (8) And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. (9) And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, (10) but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.”

Silly Stubbornness

Deuteronomy 9:13 – “Furthermore, the LORD said to me, ‘I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stubborn people.’”

Deuteronomy 29:18-19 – (18) “Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, (19) one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.’ This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike.”

Jeremiah 18:11-12 – (11) “Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ‘Thus says the LORD, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.’ (12) But they say, ‘That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’”

Saul’s Stubborn Streak

1 Samuel 15:19-31 – (19) “‘Why haven’t you obeyed the LORD? Why did you rush for the plunder and do what was evil in the LORD’s sight?’ (20) ‘But I did obey the LORD,’

Saul insisted. ‘I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. (21) Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.’ (22) But Samuel replied, ‘What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. (23) Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshipping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.’ (24) Then Saul admitted to Samuel, ‘Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the LORD’s command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. (25) But now, please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I may worship the LORD.’ (26) But Samuel replied, “I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected the LORD’s command, he has rejected you as king of Israel.’ (27) As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore the hem of his robe. (28) And Samuel said to him, ‘The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you. (29) And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!” (30) Then Saul pleaded again, ‘I know I have sinned. But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel by coming back with me so that I may worship the LORD your God.’ (31) So Samuel finally agreed and went back with him, and Saul worshiped the LORD.” (NLT)

The Face of the Fall

Genesis 4:5-7 – (5) “But for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. (6) The LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? (7) If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

The Heavenward Heart

Jeremiah 10:23-24 – (23) “I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. (24) Correct me, O LORD, but in justice; not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing.”

Psalms 139:23-24 – (23) “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! (24) And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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