



1 SAMUEL

THE COMING KING

Whether we realise it or not, we all need a king. We all desire to have someone or something to guide us and lead us and rule our lives, whether that be us or someone else. In 1 Samuel we see what happens when people reject God as King over their lives. In this story from Israel's history, God reluctantly raises up kings to rule over his rebellious people.

But 1 Samuel is more than just a record of the past. It points us forward to God's ultimate and true king, the Lord Jesus Christ. Over 9 weeks, we'll explore this book and together anticipate "The Coming King" who rules and leads God's people perfectly, and who calls us to allow him to be the king of our lives.

1 SAMUEL

THE COMING KING



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WE WANT A KING LIKE THE OTHER NATIONS!



SAMUEL

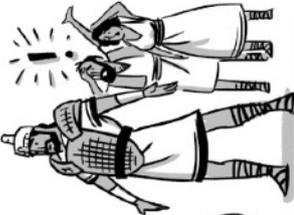


GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT!

CHARACTER FLAWS
• DISHONEST • PRIDEFUL
• LACKS INTEGRITY

DISOBEYS GOD'S COMMANDS
(CHAPTERS 13 & 15)

13 & 15



ISRAEL NEEDS A **HUMBLE** FAITHFUL KING!

PROUD SAUL IS BROUGHT LOW

SAUL'S LIFELINE



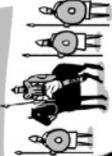
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SAUL HUNTS DAVID



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I HATE DAVID!

SAUL

18-20

WE LOVE DAVID!



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PSALM PSALMS 18, 52, 53, 57 #31

DAVID'S LIFELINE

1 SAMUEL

INTRODUCTION TO 1 SAMUEL



The book of 1 Samuel, along with 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, originally formed one large volume known as the 'Book of Kingdoms'. Its division into the four separate books that we have in our Bibles today probably happened during the time of the early church to make it less daunting and more readable. Together these four books form a continuous story and record an incredibly significant era in Israel's history: the era that saw Israel move from a loosely connected group of twelve tribes to a nation ruled by a centralised king (monarchy).

The story of 1 Samuel centres on three key people: Samuel, Saul, and David. Samuel was the last of the judges and the prophet who anointed the first two kings. Saul was Israel's first king, while David was Israel's next and most beloved king. The story itself is told in three basic parts, each related to these three men:



In **part 1 (chs. 1–7)** the story is all about Samuel; his birth, call, and early career are narrated (1:1–4:1a), as well as the loss of the ark of the covenant to the Philistines before their conquest and the ark's eventual return (4:1b–7:14).



In **part 2 (chs. 8–15)** the stories of Samuel and Saul overlap with two central issues coming to the fore: (1) God's affirmations but also warnings about Israel's desire for a king (chs. 8–12); and (2) the beginning of Saul's reign and God's rejection of him as king (chs. 13–15).



In **part 3 (chs. 16–31)** the stories of Saul and David overlap with the essential aspect of the story being told at the beginning and the end: the anointing of David to replace Saul as king (16:1–13) and the death of Saul and his apparent heir, Jonathan (ch. 31). It is a thrilling story centred on David's rise and Saul's demise, as well as Saul's constant pursuit of David in order to kill the upstart rival to his dynasty.

The book of 1 Samuel picks up where Judges finishes; in the spiralling mess of Israel's rebellion and seemingly hopeless attempts to live up to their high calling to be the people of God. Judges ends with these words:

"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." **Judges 21:25**

The days when Israel had no king were a mess. Chaos. The accounts of the Judges are largely ugly and brutal. This is what life is like when there is no king and everyone does as they see fit.

But the real problem for Israel ran deeper than simply the fact that they had no king to rule over them. In actual fact, they did have a King—God Himself was their king—but they refused to acknowledge this reality or to live obediently under His reign. Their real problem was not their lack of a king, but their lack of obedience to God as King.

This background helps us to understand the events of 1 Samuel. As the story moves forward we see Israel ask for a king to rule over them like they see the other nations have. To God, this is equal to a rejection of His rule over them (1 Sam 8:7). And what we will see is that the people's choice for their first king, Saul, though he starts well, ultimately fails as he refuses to listen obediently to the word of God that comes through Samuel.

Even God's choice to be king, David, proves to be a mixed blessing. David's reign is the high point in Israel's history. Yet David's story is also one of tragedy and defeat (narrated in the events of 2 Samuel). With the rise and demise of these kings, God is at work to point us forward to how he will ultimately resolve the mess of humankind's rebellious mutiny against his good rule.

Both Saul and David were anointed with oil when they became king (1 Sam. 10:1; 16:13), and thus each became known as "the anointed one" (1 Sam. 2:35). The Hebrew word for this phrase is "messiah", or "Christ" in the language of the New Testament (Greek). So, in both the disastrous reign of Saul and the flawed reign of David, we are being prepared for and pointed towards the true Christ, the one who would finally rule God's people in the way that God intends.

This is how 1 Samuel fits into the overarching story of the Bible: it helps prepare us to see our need for a king. But not just any king; we are pointed forward to the coming of a great king whose reign will never end and who will bear all the marks of David's greatness but none of his flaws.

As the story continues to unfold in 2 Samuel, God actually makes an unconditional covenant promise to David that someone from his bloodline would reign over God's people forever (2 Samuel 7). The history of these first kings (literally "christs") anticipates and points us towards the rule of the perfect and promised King, the Lord Jesus Christ. As we explore 1 Samuel and read the story of the rise of the kings in Israel, we will be pointed to and prepared for the arrival of the King of Kings; Jesus Christ.

The above article is largely based on the following resources:

EV Church, *Rise of the Kings: 1 & 2 Samuel*

Oasis Church, *Rise of the Kings: 1 Samuel*

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*

A GLIMPSE OF THE KING



Week 1 - 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

INTRODUCTION

The book of 1 Samuel begins with the grief of a barren woman named Hannah. Hannah's grief eventually gives way to joy when God blesses her with a son named Samuel, who will be a key figure in leading Israel to the next phase of its history; the transition from the chaos of the judges era, to life under a king. Hannah's joyful and fervent prayer in response to the blessing of Samuel (2:1-10) anticipates the coming of a king anointed by God to reign over Israel.

READ 1 Samuel 1:-2:10

Q. What stands out as you read the passage? What questions or thoughts do you have? (Characters, tension, repeated words, big moments, weird things?)

Q. Have you ever found yourself feeling like Hannah (in a time of distress and grief)? How did you deal with your distress and grief?

Q2. How do v1-7 explain why Hannah is "weeping" and "downhearted" in v8? What's the cause of her distress (v2, 4, 6-7)?

Barrenness had added meaning in Old Testament Israel. God had promised that a child would be born who would save humanity; and Abraham had been promised that the child would come from his descendants, Israel (Genesis 3:15; Genesis 22:17-18). So infertility was a personal tragedy, as it is today, but it also carried a sense of exclusion from the purposes of God's people. - Tim Chester

Q. How does Eli (the high priest of Israel) respond to Hannah (1v17)? What do you think about his response? What about Hannah's reply (1v18)?

Q. In the second part of ch1 (v19-28) God answers Hannah's prayer, and Hannah responds with worship and prayer. What strikes you about Hannah's prayer/song in 2:1-10? What does it tell us about who God is and how he acts?

Q. Compare Hannah's song with Mary's song from Luke 1:46-56. What similarities do you notice? How do the themes of Hannah's song find their true fulfilment in Jesus?

HANNAH'S SONG	MARY'S SONG

Q. Where do you tend to find hope in the midst of times of despair? How might this passage help you find hope in Jesus?

Q. How might you say that in a simple way at work or with other people in your life?

SUMMING UP

Hannah's song serves as the key to interpreting 1 Samuel. In these lines we hear all of the main themes of the book. The Lord humbles some and exalts others (v7). It is not by strength that people prevail (v9). God gives strength to his anointed king (v10). And this last truth is remarkable, because at this point in the story there is no king in Israel! Hannah's prayer is saying: God's King is coming; and when he does, he will turn the world upside down. - Tim Chester

PRAY

COMING UP....

- ***Christianity Explored starts next week (26th July) and runs for 7 weeks.*** If you're interested or would like to invite someone to the course, please grab an invite card from the church foyer or head to dpc.cc/next to register your interest.
- ***Our Prayer & Praise night is on Wednesday 17th August.*** It's a great chance to gather as one church from across our Earlychurch, Ten30, and 5pm congregations to pray and praise God together.

A COMING PRIEST AND PROPHET



Week 2 - 1 Samuel 2:11-4:1

INTRODUCTION

These verses tell the story of Eli's failure (he was the high priest of Israel at the time). His failure led to the wicked behaviour of his sons, their abuse of the sacrificial system, and ultimately, God's judgement on his house and lineage. Against this dark backdrop, the call of Samuel as a true prophet of the Lord is described in vivid and intriguing detail.

READ 1 Samuel 2:12-36

Q. How are Eli's sons described? Do you think Eli's response to his son's wickedness is sufficient (v22-25)?

Q. Notice the way Hannah's son, Samuel, is described in this section (v11, 18, 21, 26). What hope does Samuel give in light of the corrupt leadership of Israel?

Q. Based on v27-36, what would you say is the main reason that God's judgement has come upon Eli and his house?

Q. Compare 1 Samuel 2:26 with Luke 2:52 and 1 Samuel 2:35 with Hebrews 4:14-16. How does Samuel point us to Jesus?

1 SAMUEL 2:26	LUKE 2:52
1 SAMUEL 2:35	HEBREWS 4:14-16

READ 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1

Q. This section of the story begins (3:1) and ends (4:1) in starkly different ways. What does this tell us about the significance of the calling of Samuel (vv.19-21)?

Q. How is Samuel a stark contrast to Eli’s sons? What is Samuel doing in this chapter that Eli’s sons (and most of Israel at the time) were failing to do (see v.10)?

Q. Would you say the word of God is “rare” in our day? Why or why not?

READ Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-18

Q. Consider from these two New Testament passages how God has spoken and revealed himself to us once and for all:

SUMMING UP

Israel was in a desperate crisis. There was no rule, and the house of God was horribly corrupt. So what did God do? He sent his *word* by raising up a prophet - Samuel.

This is always how God acts to change the *status quo*. He sends his word. Just as God spoke and created everything by his word, he also sustains everything by his powerful word - his son, Jesus. What we need most in a crisis is God's word. Our hope is in the power of God's word. The point of this part of 1 Samuel is not that we should expect, and far less demand, that God will speak to us in the way he spoke to Samuel. No, the point is that in his Son—"the word", the Lord Jesus—God has spoken loud and clear.

This is the Word of God – the person of Jesus, the teaching of Jesus, and the work of Jesus.

PRAY

COMING UP....

- **Christianity Explored starts this week (Tuesday 26th).** Please be praying for the course and for those who will attend.
- **Our Prayer & Praise night is on Wednesday 17th August.** It's a great chance to gather as one church from across our Earlychurch, Ten30, and 5pm congregations to pray and praise God together. Mark it in your calendar!
- **DPC Membership Course starts 21st August.** To find out more, head to the connect desk at church on Sunday.

GOD IS KING!



Week 3 - 1 Samuel 4:1-7:17

INTRODUCTION

In the next few chapters of 1 Samuel, we get a picture of God's power and kingship over everything, and the failure of both the Israelites and the Philistines to acknowledge who God is. Throughout this section, we see what happens when God's word (through Samuel who is mysteriously missing in these chapters) is ignored or sidelined. And we'll see God show that he is the only King Israel need.

READ 1 Samuel 4 (see the next page for summary on the ark of the covenant)

Q. How are Israel treating the ark of God in verse 3? Why do you think the Israelites felt that having the ark with them would guarantee a win in the battle?

Q. Does verse 10 surprise you? Why do you think Israel was defeated by the Philistines? Consider who carried the ark into battle in verse 4.

"The ark was supposed to remain in the tabernacle. But the Israelites bring it onto the battlefield. They are trying to use God, to force him to act on their behalf. They are not taking God seriously. They think they can simply co-opt him for their own purposes." – Tim Chester

READ 1 Samuel 5:1-10

Q. What is your reaction to this section of the story? What questions or thoughts do you have?

Q. Does this episode remind you of any truths from Hannah's prayer (see 2:1-10, especially verse 10)?

Q. The glory of God is a central idea in this story. How would you define glory?

Q. What would it look like to take the weight of God's glory seriously in your life?

What is "the Ark of the covenant"?

The Ark was a wooden box about a metre long and covered with gold, with cherubim on top. It served a practical purpose - it held some sacred objects like the stone tablets from Mt Sinai, some manna, and Aaron's rod (Heb 9:4) - but it was also really special! It sat in the tabernacle (where God dwelt with his people). No one was allowed to touch the Ark out of respect for God - anyone who did would die. God wanted Israel to treat the Ark like they should treat him - with fear and trembling. The ark didn't contain **God**, but was intimately linked to His presence in Israel.

And so the Ark stirred up powerful imagery for the Israelites because of the way they understood it - **as the visible sign of God's presence with them**. Whenever the Ark went before Israel, it was a sign that God was with them. That the holy God of Israel was present with His people.

READ 1 Samuel 6:19-21

The question in 6:20 is a key question, not just in this story, but in the entire Bible:

"Who can stand in the presence of the Lord, this holy God?"

Read **Romans 5:1-2** and **Hebrews 10:19-25** and discuss the following questions:

Q. How are the truths in these passages good news in light of the glory and holiness of God we've seen in 1 Samuel?

Q. You can stand before the glory of God because of the cross. How does that make you feel, and what difference might it make in day to day life?

Q. What would you say or write to someone who may only have days or hours before they stand before God?

PRAY

COMING UP....

- **Christianity Explored continues this week.** Please be praying for the course and for those who attend.
- **Our Prayer & Praise night is on Wednesday 17th August.** It's a great chance to gather as one church from across our Earlychurch, Ten30, and 5pm congregations to pray and praise God together. Mark it in your calendar!
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A KING LIKE THE NATIONS



Week 4 - 1 Samuel 8

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is a turning point in Old Testament history, moving from judges to kings. Israel are again having a leadership crisis and the people want a change: up until now they had depended on the Lord to raise up judges to lead them as needed, but now they want a king “like all the nations”. Rather than following God’s way for them, they preferred to follow the ways of the world around them. It was ultimately a rejection of the kingship of God.

READ 1 Samuel 8

Back in 2:35, God promised to raise up a faithful priest, and this promise is partially fulfilled in Samuel. Yet:

Q. What is striking, and familiar, about verse 3? How does it suggest that we might need to keep waiting for the ultimate fulfilment of God’s promise of a true and faithful Priest?

The rule of a king over Israel has been anticipated throughout the Biblical story so far (see Deut 17:14-20 in particular). But here God considers the Israelites request for a king to be a personal rejection (8:7).

Q. What is it about their request that is a problem and a bit concerning? Notice their underlying motivation in verses 5 and 20.

Q. How is this a direct refusal of their God-given identity and mission? (See what they *should* have done with God and the nations in Exodus 19:3-6).

Q.In light of what God has just done for the Israelites (7:10-14), how is their request short-sighted and offensive?

Q. Summarise Samuel's warning about this choice to reject & replace God from v9-18?

Q. How does God respond to their request (v.22)? Why is this both striking and sobering?

Q. Israel wanted a king so they would be like the other nations, and in v22 God gives them what they want. How are we tempted to think and live in the same way? How is this opposed to what God calls us to? Consider 1 Peter 2:9.

Q. Samuel warns the people that this worldly king will be a "taker"—four times in this section the word 'take' appears (vv.11, 13, 14, 16). How does this attitude contrast to the ultimate King, the Lord Jesus? Consider Mark 10:45; Luke 22:19; Matt 11:28; 2 Cor 8:9.

*"At the trial of Jesus, Pilate asks him whether he is king of the Jews (John 18:33). Jesus replies: "My kingdom is not of this world" (v.36). In other words, he is not a king "like the nations have". If we want a leader of the sort everybody else looks for, Jesus will disappoint. If we learn to yearn for a ruler who obeys God and leads us into obedience to God (and, indeed, gives us his obedience when and where we fail), then we will love having Jesus as our King." - **Tim Chester***

Q. It's easy to look at what Israel did and think they did something stupid. But the truth is, we do the same thing - we often let other things rule and lead us instead of Jesus.

Write down a few ways you see this happening in your life, and pray about it together.

PRAY

COMING UP....

- **Our Prayer & Praise night is on NEXT WEDNESDAY 17th August from 6:30pm.** We'll have a light dinner together first and then spend some time praying and praising God together as one church from across our three congregations. For catering purposes, please RSVP by heading to dpc.cc/prayer
- **DPC Membership Course starts 21st August.** To find out more, head to the connect desk at church on Sunday or get in touch with the church office (admin@dpc.cc).

A FAILED KING



Week 5 - 1 Samuel 9-15

INTRODUCTION

These chapters narrate the events surrounding the choice, anointing, and early success of Israel's first king, Saul, as well as Samuel's farewell speech, in which he confronts the people for their rejection of God, but also reminds them of God's faithfulness to them.

Although chosen directly by God, Saul fails to be obedient to God and chooses to do things in his own way. As a result, Samuel tells Saul that he will be rejected by God as king, which sets the stage for God to choose a new king who is a "man after his own heart"

READ 1 Samuel 9:1-10:1 & 10:17-27

Q. What stands out in these passages? Discuss what they show about Saul as Israel's king (See 10:1,9 & 20-24 in particular)

Q. Why is 9:27 significant (given that Israel has essentially rejected God as their king by asking for a king like the nations)?

When we get to chapter 12, Samuel stands before Israel and gives his farewell speech. He's been their leader for a long time, and now lays out some guidelines for how Israel and their new king are meant to live.

READ 1 Samuel 12:6-25

Q. After stating his own innocence, what does Samuel remind the Israelites and their new king of in v12-15?

Q. Why do you think it's so important for Israel's king (and Israel as a whole) to obey God and follow Him only? (See v7 and v24)

Q. Discuss why 12:22 might be a glimmer of hope in Samuel's speech.

When we get to chapter 15, we've already seen the first signs that Saul isn't living up to his role as Israel's king. **Samuel's words to Saul in chapter 13:13-14 are damning - Saul's kingship is doomed and God has chosen a new king—a man after God's own heart—to rule over His people.** Now in chapter 15, Saul's repeated disobedience to God brings his reign as king of Israel crashing down.

READ 1 Samuel 15:1-23

Q. From v1-11, what are God's instructions for Saul, and how well does he obey God's commands?

(God's commands here are confronting! For further background information, consider Exodus 17:8-14, Deuteronomy 25:17-18, and the extract from Tim Chester below)

"To modern ears, this sounds alarmingly like ethnic cleansing. But this is ethical cleansing rather than ethnic cleansing. This is an act of judgement against sin. Destruction will come to the Amalekites not because they are Amalekites, but because they are sinners. In a sense, this should alarm us. Not because it is unfair, but because it is fair; and because while we are not Amalekites, we are sinners. Their destruction is a picture of what humanity deserves, and faces, from God. When judgement comes, nothing—nothing—is left." – Tim Chester

Q. The section from v12-23 is both a little comical and dramatic. Discuss and summarise the conversation between Saul and Samuel.

Q. From v22-23, what does Saul's disobedience mean for his kingship?

READ Romans 5:18-19 & Philippians 2:5-8

Q. With 1 Samuel 15:22-23 fresh in our minds, how do these words of Paul in the New Testament verses show Jesus as God's true and perfect King?

Q. Do you think obedience matters if we have been saved by grace through faith in Christ? Why or why not?

Q. When do you find it hard to have obedient faith in God? How might the obedience of King Jesus be a comfort and an encouragement?

SUMMING UP

Saul failed to be the obedient king that Israel needed, and it cost him his place on the throne. There is a new king coming—king David—who will prove to be a better (but still flawed) king.

But one day, a King will come who will be God's true obedient King.

Jesus lived the perfect life that we couldn't - and his obedience to God ultimately led him to the cross to take the punishment for our sin. There at the cross, Jesus offered up his obedience in the place of our disobedience—when we submit to Jesus as King, his obedience becomes our obedience.

PRAY

COMING UP....

- ***DPC Membership Course starts this Sunday 21st August.*** For last minute sign up, get in touch with the church office at admin@dpc.cc or **46625522**.
- ***Our annual mens event is coming up on Thursday 15th September.*** Save the date now and start thinking about who you might invite! For details and to register head to dpc.cc/outreach.

THE SHEPHERD KING



Week 6 - 1 Samuel 16

INTRODUCTION

Last week we saw how Israel's first human king, Saul, failed to be obedient to God and so was rejected as King. God said he was going to choose a new King who would be obedient to him and lead Israel the way God wants. As we get into the next part of 1 Samuel in chapters 16-17, we're going to see how God does exactly that...

Q1. "Never judge a book by its cover"...can you think of a time when this saying rang especially true for you?

READ 1 Samuel 16:1-12

Q2. From v1, summarise the situation and what's coming next for Samuel/Israel.

Q. How does David's anointing as king (vv.6-12) compare and contrast with Saul's (see 9:1-2 and 10:23-24)? How is the difference between the two accounts explained by verse 7?

SAUL'S ANNOINTING (9:1-2; 10:23-24)	DAVID'D ANNOINTING (16:6-12)

Q. In the Bible, God constantly chooses to work through unimpressive people and confusing circumstances. Can you think of any other examples? Why do you think this is the case? (Remember Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10).

READ 1 Samuel 16:13-23

Q. How do verses 13-14 mark a crucial change in both David's and Saul's lives?

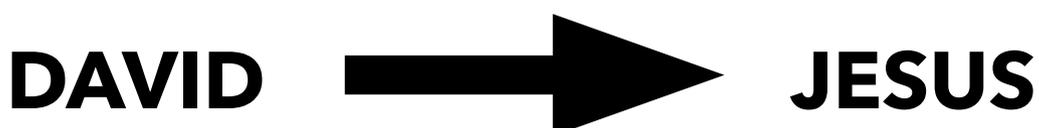
Q. How is the Holy Spirit at work in the life of David (v.13)? What about Saul (v.14)? Why the difference? Consider the following from Tim Chester:

*"In the Old Testament, the Spirit came upon people to equip them for specific tasks: to rule, to prophesy, or to build. It was task-oriented. In the case of a king, the Spirit provided them with both the authority and the ability to rule. Saul remained God's anointed king (as David will repeatedly, and at great cost, acknowledge). But without the Spirit, his authority and ability to rule began to fade. The departure of God's Spirit does not represent the removal of Saul's salvation. Whether Saul was a true (but troubled) believer is hard to discern, though 10:9 does say: "God changed Saul's heart". The removal of God's Spirit is the removal of his anointing to rule; both his authority and his ability to be king over God's people." – **Tim Chester***

In this passage, David (God's chosen king) is called to serve king Saul (Israel's failed king)

Q. What good thing about David does Saul see (v.18)?

Q. In what ways does David's kingship point us ultimately to the coming of Jesus as the King of all Kings? (Consider Isaiah 53:2, Matthew 2:1-8, Mark 6:3, Mark 10:45, and John 1:45-46 to help).



Q. Jesus uses shepherd ideas about himself. How have you experienced Him as your shepherd?

SUMMING UP

It wasn't David's good looks or impressive stature that made God choose him as king - it was his heart. God's choice for the one who will rule his people and lead them as king is not who we'd expect - instead he's a lowly shepherd, the youngest of the family - yet God sees his heart. In contrast to Saul, David is humble and obedient. He's the King Israel needs. But he wasn't perfect....

Jesus is the true and better David. Where David failed, Jesus was faithful. He is the humble, obedient, servant King we need!

PRAY

COMING UP....

- ***Our annual mens event is on Thursday 15th September.*** Save the date now and start thinking about who you might invite! For details and to register head to ***dpc.cc/outreach***.

FACING YOUR GIANTS



Week 7 - 1 Samuel 17

INTRODUCTION

David enters the scene in the most stunning way: he defeats the champion of the Philistines, although the odds of victory from a human perspective are slim. He triumphs because the Lord is with him and he fully trusts in the Lord. In this regard, David serves as a foil to Saul: Saul has disobeyed the Lord and is timid in this battle episode; David is heroic and faithful—great traits for the future king to possess.

READ 1 Samuel 17

Q1. This is probably a pretty familiar story to most of us. What things stood out? What did you notice that you may not have before?

Q2. What do the details about Goliath's armour and weaponry reveal about him (v4-7)?

Q. Why is David confident of victory when other older, stronger and better-armed Israelites refuse to face Goliath (v32-37, v45-47)?

Q. The Hebrew used to describe Goliath's armour in v5 is literally translated 'coat of scales'. The picture is not only of Goliath as a giant, but as a serpent, or snake. Think back to Genesis 3 (v13-15 especially). What is the significance of God's chosen king defeating the snake-like enemy in 1 Samuel 17?

WHEN ADAM & EVE FACED THE SCALY SNAKE...	WHEN DAVID FACED THE SCALY "SNAKE"

One of the key themes of this chapter is how God uses the weak to shame and defeat the strong.

Q. How does this remind you of Hannah’s prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (especially v7-8)?

Q. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and consider how does God continue to work in this way (using the weak to shame the strong). How does this encourage you?

Q. Discuss the following statement: “The Bible is misused when Goliath becomes whatever ‘big problem’ you face in your life and the moral is to be more like David”.
Read this first:

‘A common application of this story has been “Be like David - strong and courageous. What are the “Goliaths” you have to face in your life?” And it’s not a bad thing to look at David’s courage and faith as a good example for us! However, when you look at the details of the story, and the wider context, it’s more appropriate to see David as a Jesus-figure... and we are more like the Israelites. Weak, frightened, sinful people, legitimately terrified in the face of a great enemy (sin and death), and who desperately need a Saviour. David approached Goliath, the fearsome enemy of Israel, “in the name of the Lord.” Jesus Christ was the true King who also came “in the name of the Lord” (Luke 19:37-38). He faced up to our greatest, and truly fearful enemies (Satan, sin, and death), and defeated them.’ – Creek Road Presbyterian Church: ‘Waiting for the King’

Q. What difference should the victory of Jesus over sin, death & the devil make to our approach to life? How might this reality shape your heart and attitude to all that comes your way in life?

Q. If family or friends talk about you behind your back, how might knowing that Jesus always stands up for his people help you?

SUMMING UP

The good news of the Bible is not that we are called to be like David, facing our giants. It is that we have a David, who has faced our greatest enemies for us—the Lord Jesus who has conquered the devil and defeated sin and death. As we read the account of David and Goliath, we are not to put ourselves into David’s shoes—that is Jesus’ place. He is the anointed one—the Christ—who saves his people.

PRAY

COMING UP....

- ***Our annual men’s event is on Thursday 15th September.*** We’d love you to be thinking and praying about who you might invite - and then invite them! For details and to register head to ***dpc.cc/outreach.***
- ***Our women’s event is also coming soon!*** Save the date for ***Saturday 15th October.*** More info to come...

A TALE OF TWO KINGS



Week 8 - 1 Samuel 23, 24 & 26

INTRODUCTION

A few weeks ago, we saw in chapter 13 how Saul failed to be obedient to God and so was rejected as King of Israel. God says that with Saul gone as King, he's going to seek out a new king who will be a man after his own heart.

Q1. What do you think it means for someone to be "after God's own heart"?

READ the following passages together:

1 Samuel 23:1-18

1 Samuel 24:1-13

1 Samuel 25:21-34

1 Samuel 26:7-11

Q2. From these passages, how would you describe:

David as king?

What about Saul?

Q3. In the passages from chapter 24/25/26, David faces three trials. Each time, he is being tempted *not* to be the kind of king that God wants him to be. What kind of king would he have been if he'd given in to these temptations?

It's important to realise that the character of David in this story isn't us, but Jesus. David is the faithful King that God set over His people in 1 Samuel. But in Acts 13:22-23, Paul shows how the line of Israel's kings goes all the way from David and ends with the ultimate king, Jesus. This story isn't showing us what we're meant to be like, it's showing us what Jesus is like - the final and ultimate King that God set over His people!

READ LUKE 4:1-13

Q. What was Jesus, David's greater son, being tempted to do in the wilderness? What did he do instead?

Q. Imagine Jesus had given into each temptation. What kind of king would he be?

READ Hebrews 4:14-16

Q. How does Jesus as the perfect high priest affect the way you think about Jesus as king of your life? Why?

READ John 5:39-40

Q. Sometimes people like to pick out parts of the Old Testament to show how backward or outdated the Bible is. Think together about how you might talk to someone about the fact that the Bible is first and foremost about Jesus.

How might you help them see that the main thing is figuring out what it tells us about Jesus, before we figure out what it means for us?

SUMMING UP

At several points in this section, David shows what God's King is meant to be like: he shows mercy to Saul who is trying to kill him. He has a humble servant heart towards Saul (eg. 26:18-19) And he is more concerned with obedience to God than with saving his own life.

Yet as the story continues, we'll see that David wasn't perfect, and this 'man after God's own heart' fails to be the king God has called him to be.

Jesus, however, is faithful and obedient where David was not. He is truly a King after God's own heart. And he's a King who knows what we're going through. He's the only King who deserves our trust, our worship and our whole lives.

PRAY

COMING UP....

- ***Our annual men's event is on Thursday 15th September.*** This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or family member to mix with your church family and hear a bit about what we believe. For details and to register, head to ***dpc.cc/outreach***.
- ***Our women's event is also coming soon!*** Save the date for ***Saturday 15th October.*** For details and to register, head to ***dpc.cc/outreach***.

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN



Week 9 - 1 Samuel 28 & 31

INTRODUCTION

By the beginning of chapter 28, Samuel is dead (25:1) and God's chosen king, David, is living among the Philistines, under the protection of one of their kings. As the book comes to a close, David continues to find favour with God, while Saul's demise is complete.

READ 1 Samuel 28

Q1. Why did Saul consult a medium (v5-7, 15)?

Saul had expelled the spiritists and mediums from Israel (as he should have, for God had prohibited them - see Leviticus 19:31; 20:6-7; 20:27). Yet here Saul is consulting a medium in secret. This is a weird part of the Bible - what exactly is happening at Endor? This is one of the few times in history when someone really does appear from the dead—not because of the abilities of the medium, but because God allows it to happen so that he can speak to Saul through Samuel.

Q. What does Isaiah 8:19 call God's people not to do, and what they should do instead?

Q. What do you think about the fact that God refuses to speak to Saul? What factors have led to this point? Consider Samuel's speech in v16-19.

Q. In v20 we see Saul, the tall, impressive king, now fallen full-length on the ground in defeat (v.20), like the Philistine god, Dagon in 1 Samuel 5:3. How has the people's wish to have a "king like all the nations" come true? How does this expose the depth of their foolishness?

READ 1 Samuel 31

The book of 1 Samuel finishes on a dark note. Saul, Israel's first king, is dead. But remember Hannah's song in 2:1-10, particularly verses 6 and 9-10.

Q. What hope do these verses offer for Israel (as we turn to 2 Samuel)? And for us (as we look into the distance for Jesus Christ)?

Q. Headlines about the mighty fall of "christians" in the last census where everywhere. How do people in your group deal with that? What can you do to help each other find confidence in Jesus as King?

SUMMING UP

The death of Saul here is described in shocking detail, and we're left anticipating the rule of king David who will eventually be crowned as Israel's king in 2 Samuel 5.

The book of 1 Samuel ends with one king having fallen on his sword; the other poised to reign; with one having shown us the futility of disobeying God and visiting his purposes; the other pointing us to the most exalted, most humble, most wise and most loving King of God's people of all - the Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAY

Spend some time praying together, praising God for King Jesus, confessing our failure to acknowledge him at times, and asking God to help you live joyfully with him as King.

COMING UP....

- ***The men's event is on THIS THURSDAY 15th September!*** To get your last minute tickets, please get in touch with the church office at admin@dpc.cc or **46625522**.
- ***Our women's event is happening on Saturday 15th October.*** It'll be a great chance to invite a friend or family member to mix with our church family and hear a bit about what we believe. For details and to register, head to dpc.cc/outreach.

BIBLE READING PLAN

WEEK OF SUNDAY 17TH JULY

Monday 18 July:

1 Samuel 1:1-28

Tuesday 19 July:

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Wednesday 20 July:

1 Samuel 2:11-26

Thursday 21 July:

1 Samuel 2:27-36

Friday 22 July:

1 Samuel 3:1-21

WEEK OF SUNDAY 24TH JULY

Monday 25 July:

1 Samuel 4:1-22

Tuesday 26 July:

1 Samuel 5:1-12

Wednesday 27 July:

1 Samuel 6-7:1

Thursday 28 July:

1 Samuel 7:2-17

Friday 29 July:

1 Samuel 8:1-22

WEEK OF SUNDAY 31ST JULY

Monday 1 August:

1 Samuel 9:1-27

Tuesday 2 August:

1 Samuel 10:1-16

Wednesday 3 August:

1 Samuel 10:17-27

Thursday 4 August:

1 Samuel 11:1-15

Friday 5 August:

1 Samuel 12:1-25

WEEK OF SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST

Monday 8 August:

1 Samuel 13:1-23

Tuesday 9 August:

1 Samuel 14:1-23

Wednesday 10 August:

1 Samuel 14:24-46

Thursday 11 August:

1 Samuel 14:47-52

Friday 12 August:

1 Samuel 15:1-35

WEEK OF SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST

Monday 15 August:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Tuesday 16 August:

1 Samuel 16:14-23

Wednesday 17 August:

1 Samuel 17:1-54

Thursday 18 August:

1 Samuel 17:55-18:5

Friday 19 August:

1 Samuel 18:6-30

WEEK OF SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST

Monday 22 August:

1 Samuel 19:1-24

Tuesday 23 August:

1 Samuel 20:1-42

Wednesday 24 August:

1 Samuel 21:1-15

Thursday 25 August:

1 Samuel 22:1-23

Friday 26 August:

1 Samuel 23:1-29

WEEK OF SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST

Monday 29 August:

1 Samuel 24:1-15

Tuesday 30 August:

1 Samuel 24:16-25:1

Wednesday 31 August:

1 Samuel 25:2-35

Thursday 1 September:

1 Samuel 25:36-44

Friday 2 September:

1 Samuel 26:1-25

WEEK OF SUNDAY 4TH

SEPTEMBER

Monday 5 September:

1 Samuel 27:1-12

Tuesday 6 September:

1 Samuel 28:1-14

Wednesday 7 September:

1 Samuel 28:15-25

Thursday 8 September:

1 Samuel 29:1-7

Friday 9 September:

1 Samuel 29:8-11

WEEK OF SUNDAY 11TH

SEPTEMBER

Monday 12 September:

1 Samuel 30:1-6

Tuesday 13 September:

1 Samuel 30:7-15

Wednesday 14 September:

1 Samuel 30:16-31

Thursday 15 September:

1 Samuel 31:1-7

Friday 16 September:

1 Samuel 31:8-13

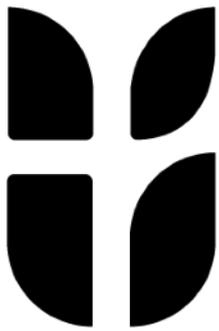
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**THIS PAGE HAS A MESSAGE WRITTEN
IN INVISIBLE INK...**



1 SAMUEL

THE COMING KING



DALBY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH