

## **Getting a Little King**

I Samuel Overview

(preached Pine Grove 3/1/15; Sunday PM)

### **Introduction**

I have never really excelled at the game of checkers.

My grandfather tried to teach me the game when I was little, and even though I could last a little while playing against him, he always won.

I have tried to improve by playing the computer, but I can never beat the computer when it is on the hardest level.

But I have learned one thing about the game.

Having a king is crucial to winning the game.

Kings are awarded when your checker reaches the last line of your opponents territory.

And the power of a king is that it is able to move both forwards and backwards in the game.

Which is a huge advantage against an opponent if I had ever learned how to use a king properly.

But I never did, so even if I get a king first, I still lose at checkers.

Now, tonight in our journey through the Bible, we are going to look at the book of 1 Samuel.

And it is the story of Israel finally getting a king, but like me, it really doesn't make that much of a difference in the nation.

Now, God is going to use the fact of Israel getting a king as a way to point to the ultimate king and kingdom to come.

He is going to use this opportunity to make another covenant with Israel.

When David becomes the king of Israel, it is God's opportunity to make another covenant with Israel.

Because God is going to promise the nation of Israel that someone from David's line will sit on David's throne forever.

And that someone will be the King of kings.

And though Jesus has yet to take his place on David's throne, it is promise that God will keep.

And it is a promise that I look forward to because Jesus will not only rule Israel in that day, he will rule the nations...

And He will rule justly with a rod of iron.

We all await that day, but that day first came into clearer view in the book of 1 Samuel.

And it didn't begin with David, it began with a woman who couldn't have a baby and her name is Hannah and we first meet her in 1 Samuel 1.

And the story of Hannah is really the story of Samuel....

Which will eventually lead to the story of Saul, who was Israel's first king....

And Saul's story will eventually lead to David.

And those are really the three main characters of the book of 1 Samuel...

And that is really how we will divide up this book....

### **I. Samuel: The Last Judge (1-7)**

**A. Samuel as Prophet (1-3)**

**B. Samuel as Judge (4-7)**

### **II. Saul: The First King (8-15)**

**A. The Rise of Saul (8-12)**

**B. The Fall of Saul (13-15)**

### **III. David: The Boy King (16-31)**

**A. Meeting David (16-17)**

**B. Chasing David (18-27)**

**C. Saying Goodbye to Saul (28-31)**

## **I. Samuel: The Last Judge (1-7)**

### **A. Samuel as Prophet (1-3)**

As the book of 1 Samuel opens, we find a woman who is without a child.

And if there is one place and one requirement for God to go to work, it is in the life of someone who can't do for themselves.

The impossible is where God excels.

When all hope is gone is the place where God shows up.

And he shows up in chapter 1 and answers the prayers of Hannah, and he gives her a son named Samuel.

Hannah had asked God for a child with the promise that she would give him back to the Lord.

And after Samuel is weaned, Hannah takes her little boy to the tabernacle and the priest and literally hands him over to the Lord.

Eli is the priest there, and we see the contrast of this young boy who wants to serve the Lord...

And Eli's sons who hated the Lord.

Look at 1 Samuel 2:12...

***<sup>12</sup> Now the sons of Eli were <sup>lf</sup>worthless men; they did not know the Lord***

And compare that to 1 Samuel 3:1...

***<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord before Eli.***

And these first 3 chapters paint the picture of a humble boy who wanted to live in the tabernacle...

While the sons of the priest wanted to live anywhere but the tabernacle.

Which brings up an interesting point...

And really a startling truth that we all know...

You can put your children in the best of environments and they can surely disappoint you.

And you can take kids from the worst of environment and watch them do incredible things for the Lord.

Now, in no way am I saying that you shouldn't bring your children to church.

In no way am I saying that you shouldn't be diligent in family Bible time.

Those are great investments in your children.

What is the principle of Proverbs 22:6..

***“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”***

And that should be the goal of parenting.

We should train up our children in the way that they should go.

We should bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And pray that they will not depart from it when they grow older.

But that is not a promise of Proverbs 22:6...

Because we have all seen cases where kids from good homes that end up in lives of sin and rebellion...

And we have also seen kids from sinful and rebellious homes...

End up as believers who serve the Lord with gladness.

I say all that to say that parents and even grandparents don't need to live with the burden that they are responsible for how their kids turn out.

We speak the gospel to our kids, we read the Bible to them and with them, we teach them to obey the Lord...

But in the end, their lives are in the Lord's hands.

And we simply trust the Lord to care for them and discipline them as shape them as HE sees fit.

Eli's sons grew up in and around the tabernacle, yet they became worthless men.

Samuel is born to a family with problems, but he comes to know and serve the Lord.

And we see that in 1 Samuel 3:19...

***<sup>19</sup> Thus Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words <sup>[c]</sup>fail. <sup>20</sup> All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, because the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.***

And he would become a very important prophet in the history of the OT.

He would not only anoint Israel's first king, he would also anoint Israel's greatest king...

And we will see that in a minute, but Samuel was also the last judge of Israel.

## **B. Samuel as Judge (4-7)**

If you remember, we are still in the time where Judges ruled over Israel.

Israel was first led by Moses and then Joshua, but ever since those two great leaders...

The nation came under the leadership of a series of judges.

These were men that led Israel out of their rebellion and sin and helped them follow the Lord more closely.

And the last of these judges would be Samuel...

In chapters 4-7, we see Samuel lead Israel into battle against the Philistines.

Though I cannot go into these chapters, they are fascinating look at the idea of a good luck charm...

And God shows the foolishness of trusting in or relying upon anything else other than him.

But you can come on Wednesday nights to hear this in detail because we are beginning 1 Samuel this Wednesday night.

Eventually in chapter 7, Israel defeats the Philistines.

And turn with me to 1 Samuel 7:15...

***<sup>15</sup> Now Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. <sup>16</sup> He used to go annually on circuit to Bethel and Gilgal and Mizpah, and he judged Israel in all these places. <sup>17</sup> Then his return was to Ramah, for his house was there, and there he judged Israel; and he built there an altar to the Lord.***

Now, this leads to the second section of 1 Samuel and the attention of the nations turns to getting a king...

## **II. Saul: The First King (8-15)**

### **A. The Rise of Saul (8-12)**

In 2005, an opportunity came my way to start a business.

Our little company would do the vending machines for a large warehouse,...

And we would also get the contract to clean the offices, break rooms, and bathrooms.

Well, I knew very little about cleaning in work place settings, so I called a salesman who helped me out with advice...

And by selling me the necessary equipment...

Well, the place had over 25,000 square feet of floors just like this.

And I would be responsible to keep them clean, which includes stripping and waxing them twice a year.

So, I was ambitious and I told the salesman that I needed a buffer to do it.

He asked me if I had ever ran a buffer before.

I told him no, and he said "Well, I have a couple options but I am going to bring the smaller buffer for you to use."

He told me it would take longer, but it would be easier to use and would get me used to running it.

Well, if you have never run a floor buffer before, it is looking like a vacuum except it has a very large rotating disc on the bottom used to shine the floor.

And if you don't know what you are doing, it can get away from you very fast.

Well, I didn't know that. So I told him. Just bring that bigger one. I'm in a hurry and I can handle it.

Well, you know how the story ends.

He brought it and I turned it on and it nearly ripped my arms out of socket.

And he eventually went back and had to get the smaller one...

And what is the moral of the story?

Be careful of what you ask for, you just might it.

Well, that is the story of chapter 8...

And we need to read this, and this is something that I would mark in my Bible because it is a huge turning point in the history of Israel.

So, let me read a few verses here...

So we can see what Israel is thinking....

1 Samuel 8:1...

***8 And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. <sup>2</sup> Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judging in Beersheba. <sup>3</sup> His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice***

Samuel's sons go bad, and I guess we could say they were the last "official" judges of Israel...

Verse 4...

***<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; <sup>5</sup> and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." <sup>6</sup> But the thing was <sup>[a]</sup> displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. <sup>8</sup> Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you***

***also. <sup>9</sup> Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly <sup>[b]</sup>warn them and tell them of the <sup>[c]</sup>procedure of the king who will reign over them.”***

Samuel is not pleased with Israel's desire for a king, but God is going to give them what they desire.

However, Samuel warns them of the problems associated with a king in verses 10-18...

He tells the nation that a king would tax them, draft their children into military service and even limit their freedom...

But look at Israel's response in 1 Samuel 8:19...

***<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, “No, but there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup> that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”***

And here we get to the reasons that Israel wanted a king.

First, they wanted to be like their neighbors....

Always a huge problem in the life of a nation or a person..

But second, they wanted a king to fight their battles...

Now, I ask you...

Who would you rather have fighting for you?

An Sovereign God or a Sinful Man?

And before we throw stones at the foolishness of Israel, let us make sure we don't try to fight God's battles without our own wisdom and strength.

Israel wanted to be like the nations who had a king.

And that makes sense because the world is known for trusting in the flesh.

Even today, the world trusts in science in telling how the earth was created.

It trusts in psychology to tell us how to parent.

It trusts in intelligence to say that God cannot possible exist.

That has always been the pattern of the world.

That is why the nations in Israel's day had a king.

They trusted in human leadership and the strength of their military.

And Israel wanted that as well.

Let's get rid of the Holy and simply give us a Human to rule us....

However their attitude should have that of the psalmist who wrote in psalm 20:7...

***7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.***

Unfortunately at this point in the history of Israel, they wanted to place their trust in a human king...

And it was a real turning point for the nation...

So, God gives Samuel permission to give them a king...

And in chapters 9-11, God chooses Saul to become the first king of Israel...

And in chapter 12, Saul is appointed king...

1 Samuel 12:13...

***13 Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen, whom you have asked for, and behold, the Lord has set a king over you. 14 If you will fear the Lord and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the <sup>[e]</sup>command of the Lord, then both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God. 15 If you will not listen to the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the***

***U** command of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.*

Again, we see the mercy and patience of God.

Even though desiring a king was not the best option, God still shows grace here..

And simply tells Israel this...

“If you will simply obey from here on out, it will still go well for you even with a king as your leader...”

Here is chance number 500 for Israel.

But, they cannot obey and the first to disobey is King Saul himself...

And that leads us to the....

## **B. The Fall of Saul (13-15)**

Ever had a child ask you how clean is “enough clean?”

Go clean your room!

And they say, what does that mean?

That means clean it until it is clean.

How much is enough to be considered obedience?

You file your taxes but you aren't exactly truthful in every spot.

You tell the truth but you leave out certain details on purpose.

What is total obedience?

Let's look at 1 Samuel 15:1..

***15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the <sup>[a]</sup>words of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'I will <sup>[b]</sup>punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. <sup>3</sup> Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"***

The command is clear.... "Utterly destroy all that he has and do not spare him."

Go to verse 7..

***7 So Saul <sup>[d]</sup>defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is <sup>[e]</sup>east of Egypt. <sup>8</sup> He captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. <sup>9</sup> But Saul and the people spared***

***Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.***

WE have all been there...

Saul destroyed all the Amalkites..

He is probably feeling pretty good about himself...

“Been a long day of serving the Lord. I’m sure God would be okay with me saving a little bit of the livestock for me as reward.”

“I really don’t need to kill the king. I killed all his people. So, God will probably be fine with me letting him live.”

Wrong. Wrong. And wrong.

Remember this church.

Often in times right after great spiritual victories, we are very tempted to disobey.

Saul was probably feeling a little good about serving the Lord.

So, he thought it was ok to almost obey.

But almost obedience is actually no obedience.

And God rips the kingdom away from Saul.

Verse 10...

***<sup>10</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, <sup>11</sup> “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from <sup>12</sup>following Me and has not carried out My commands.”***

Samuel actually goes and carries out the command of the Lord and kills Agag.

And that bring this section on Saul to a close...

And with Saul out of the way, the path is cleared for David to become king in chapters 16-31.....

### **III. David: The Boy King (16-31)**

#### **A. Meeting David (16-17)**

This final section of 1 Samuel is the story of David.

Much of this section of Scripture will contain the Bible stories that we have come to know as kids in Sunday School.

But I want to start with what may be the most important verse of the book of 1 Samuel and it is found in Samuel 16..

Samuel is sent to the house of Jesse and God tells Samuel that one of Jesse's sons will be the next king.

So he head that way but has a problem when he gets there..

The son that first catches Samuel's eye is not the one that God has chosen...

And so we read in 1 Samuel 16:6...

***When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him."<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for <sup>[b]</sup>God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."***

Such a very important principle of the entire Bible.

You can't judge a book or a person by its cover.

You judge a book by what is inside and you judge a man by his heart.

Listen to Jesus in Matthew 12..

***<sup>33</sup> “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.***

***<sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.***

The measure of a person is found in what comes out of heart.

The measure of a person is the fruit they produce.

And where does the fruit truly come from?

The seed that originally placed in the ground.

And David is God's chosen not because of outward appearance but because of his heart to serve the Lord.

Though Saul continues as king, it is now David's kingdom in many ways....

And the rest of the book of 1 Samuel is his rise to power...

Chapter 17 is the well known defeat of Goliath, where David is shown to totally trust in the Lord and rely upon Him for victory.

And we know that Goliath falls to David.

### **B. Chasing David (18-27)**

And then in chapter 18, a strange thing happens...

First, David becomes good friends with Saul's son Jonathan....

But at the same time, Saul becomes David's bitter enemy...

And for the next 9 chapters, Saul seeks to destroy David...

And David goes on the run...

As a side note, Samuel dies in chapter 25, and the entire nation mourns because he was such a righteous man.

And his death is followed by the death of Saul in chapters 28-31....

### **C. Saying Goodbye to Saul (28-31)**

Saul is eventually overtaken by the Philistine army and he commits suicide by falling on his sword.

And his death leads to the rise of David as king, which we will examine more in 2 Samuel next Sunday.

## **Conclusion**

What would I say sums up this book in the big picture view of the Bible?

Well, right or wrong, Israel desire for a king is going to shape their history but is it also going to shape their view of Jesus when He arrives.

And it isn't going to shape it in a good way.

Because they are going to still be looking for a king to fight their earthly battles when He arrives.

In that day, they are going to want him to defeat the Romans.

And they are going to reject him when he refuses to do it.

What they fail to understand is that their greatest enemy was not the Romans...

It was the sin that was in the hearts.

And Jesus came to win that battle first.

Now, Jesus will also return to wage war against the kingdoms of the world.

He is coming to rule the world like the king that Israel wanted.

But his greatest victory came at the cross not on the battlefield.

His greatest victory as king was when he defeated sin on our behalf.

And that is why we love Him so.

Because He is not the king that fought for us...

Because he is the king who died for us.

Israel wanted a warrior for a king...

But what they needed was a lamb to die for them.

And that is what Jesus did...

Charles Wesley wrote a hymn many years ago entitled "And can it be?"

And the purpose of the hymn was to be amazed by the truth that a king would die for his people..

The chorus of the song goes like this...

Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

That is the wonder of Jesus the king.

He came to rule but he first came to die.

And by his death we are set free from sin, and we are made citizens of his kingdom.

Amazing love, how can it be, that my King would die for me!

Let us pray.