

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Throwbacks Series | You Are Not the King

BIG POINT

We don't live under the "Kingdom of Saul" anymore – it died on the cross. We live under the reign of David – the reign of Jesus, where the heart is the measurement. Jesus – abandoned and forgotten by His friends and family, rejected by His people, rose from obscurity, and was surrounded by outcasts; but, was also king – the King of Kings.

We see Him in this story, and in every story. And so we read – not to see how we can become King, but to see how He became King.

He took the throne to rescue us so we wouldn't be leaderless, helpless, and hopeless after the death of the law.

REMINDER

God isn't concerned about what we think. Jesus is concerned about what is TRUE. So, Jesus tells us what is true. He says it very simply, *"It is they (the Scriptures) that bear witness about me."*

This week we were reminded that there is a greater King, and it is not us – we are NOT called to be king!

We will spend time in both 1 Samuel and John as we are reminded that we are not called to be kings; but instead, we are called to serve and trust the King of Kings – Jesus.

Notes:

1 Samuel shows Saul crowned the first king of Israel. He is good looking, tall, and a good fighter – the standard of perfection. Exactly what the Israelites were looking for!

- Saul represents the Law, man's best hope (so far) for salvation.
- Like Saul, the Law can't save us because we can't live up to its demands either.



As this story progresses it also tells a shadow story, the story of David. He wasn't tall or known as a fighter – he didn't look like the standard. David was the shadow figure underneath Saul.

Then [1 Samuel 31:1-7](#) tells the tragic ending of Saul (the Israelites lost, Saul was pierced with an arrow and kills himself, Jonathan and Saul's other sons were dead. Saul's line and reign were done – even Saul's armor bearer kills himself.

- As goes the king, so goes the nation. The Israelites all fled.
- Saul failed by elevating the outside action over the heart.
- Likewise, we fall and fail because our best deeds and greatest actions still fail to live up to a heart fully devoted and obedient to God.
- So, like the Israelites, we needed something new. We needed a new way, we needed a new King – but we are NOT that King.

As we continue through the story we see that, 3 days after Saul died, David is crowned the new King – a new line, a new

1 Samuel 31:1-7

Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. ²And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. ³The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers. ⁴Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it. ⁵And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him. ⁶Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together. ⁷And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. And the Philistines came and lived in them.

John 5:39, 46-47

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁶For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

Notes continued...:

hope, a new path forward emerges.

- It's said of David that he was a man after God's own heart.
- Imperfect, he failed and sinned – more so and more grievously than Saul; but his line was preserved and his position before God didn't change.
- We can easily think, "That isn't fair, why is Saul punished and David not?" Or, "I want to be like David, the good king, the one with the right heart." "David had godly friends, so I'll get Godly friends; David persevered, so I'll persevere; David conquered a giant, so I'll conquer giants."

Instead, we should view the story the way we're supposed to: not just a tale about two men, Saul and David, but a story about something much bigger. It is the story about the rise of a king, not David and not you or I.

Good News

And so this man, Jesus, also offered up His life – not in defeat like Saul, but in victory; not on the Mount of Gilboa, but the Mount of Olives; not surrounded by His 3 sons, but by His 3 closest disciples. His death wouldn't signal the end of His families reign; but would secure it once and for all. News of His death spread, and 3 days later He rose from the dead and was established as the new king – the eternal King.

In Romans 7:4 we're told that the law died with Jesus' death just as Saul's kingdom died with his death. "Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God." Just as a new kingdom was formed under David, the new covenant was formed under the resurrected Jesus.

As clearly as Saul's reign was over, the law's reign is over. As clearly as David's reign began, grace's reign has now begun. We don't live under the "Kingdom of Saul" or the Law anymore, it died for us on a cross. Jesus, a man who rose from obscurity, was abandoned and forgotten by His friends and family, was rejected by His people, was surrounded by outcasts, and then gave His all to save us – He is our King!

"If you can't look into the Old Testament and see Me, you will never see Me standing right in front of you."

**We can look in the right place;
but if we're looking in the wrong way, we'll never find it.**