

Sermon, March 13, 2011,
“Good King”, 2 Samuel 7:1-17
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

Review of the Books of History so far:

- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- Joshua** taking possession of the “Promised Land” can only be done through the LORD your King.
- Judges** when you forget to follow the LORD, the Promised Land of the kingdom of God will not be as bountiful for you as intended unless you know and have relationship with the King of this Kingdom and follow Him in love and obedience. The message of Judges...know your King.
- Ruth** Knowing your King leads you to redemption
- 1 Samuel** Worldly kings have unrepentant hearts which lead to evil

Overview of 2 Samuel:

- Takes place at some point in time during the Book of Judges, probably around 1,050 to 950 BC
- Author unknown, originally written as one book, the fifth book of history.
- **Outline of 2 Samuel:**
 - 1-4 David becomes king over Judah (southern kingdom)
 - 5:1-5 David becomes king over all Israel
 - 5-9 David’s kingship in its accomplishments and glory
 - 10-20 David’s kingship in its weaknesses and failures
 - 21-24 Final reflections of David’s reign

Major Themes of Samuel¹:

- In Joshua and Judges the writings revolved around the complete vs. partial conquest of the land
- In Samuel the grace and law of God is extended by its application to the question of monarchy.
- Possession of the land is now tied to kingship.
- God allows and selects Israel’s first two kings, **but** the request for a king is also a rejection of God’s rule.
- God promises that David will never lack a descendent sitting on his throne, **but** both land and kingship are lost through disobedience.
- This very tension between God’s promises and His justice remain unrelieved throughout Israel’s history until the coming of the true King, Jesus Christ.

Through 1 Samuel the people have their king.

- The people of Israel, in their degradation from Moses through Judges, become restless and now the people want a king like the other nations around them.
- They are forgetting who the King should be and are looking to their own desires for what is common in the world around them, an earthly ruler.
- God granted their request in choosing Saul, the choice of the people, tall, handsome, strong...but he ended up a failure.
- He started out as a capable military leader (defeating the Philistines, Amalekites, Ammonites) who was humble at first but became proud, disobedient to God, and insanely jealous of David...a very bad king.
- 1 Samuel ends with the death of Saul and his sons, and a devastating military defeat at the hands of the Philistines.

2 Samuel continues the story of Israel’s monarchy of earthly kings.

The next king to come is David, a man after God’s own heart.

In 1 Samuel 13:14 Samuel tells Saul, “...but now your kingdom will not continue; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart; and the LORD has appointed him to be ruler over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

- This prophecy was realized several years later when David became king of Israel.
- David was God’s choice, it was the young shepherd boy David who demonstrated his great faith in God when slew the giant Goliath while Saul cowered in his tent in 1 Samuel 17.

¹ Dillard and Longman, “An Introduction to the Old Testament”, Zondervan 1994, p. 146.

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- It was the faithful servant David who would not seek revenge on Saul even though Saul maniacally pursued him to kill him. Why? Because David saw Saul as the Lord's anointed.
- It was David who routed the enemies of Israel as a commander in the army of God, he trusted God, he had faith in the ways of the Lord, he served God
- It was David who had the opportunity to disgrace Saul as an evil and foolish king at his death but chose to praise him and remembered his good qualities in his eulogy from 2 Samuel 1.
- It was David who was made king over a united Israel.
- It was David who conquered Jerusalem, who built the city of David, who brought the Ark of the Covenant to the very place 1,000 years before Abraham took Isaac to sacrifice on Mt. Moriah.
- It was David who took to heart **Deuteronomy 6:5** ⁵ *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.*
- It was David who wrote more than 70 pieces of music in the Book of Psalms.
- It was David with whom God made a covenant with...
- 1 Samuel 7:16, *Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.*
- Here was a king after God's own heart.

Yet David was a human being who had faults, difficulties, trials, and sin just like you and me.

- It was David who neglected to go out with his troops into battle as their leader
- It was also David who stood on his porch and in his voyeurism looked down upon a naked woman.
- It was David who let the lust of his heart go after that woman and commit adultery with her.
- It was David who had the woman's husband Uriah, killed.
- It was David who did nothing when his own daughter was raped by her brother.
- It was David whose lack of leadership as a father allowed his son to take his throne for a time and eventually see that son killed.
- It was David who started as a good shepherd of his sheep, but was eventually not "the" good shepherd of the people.

David's sins were no less than Saul's. So what is the distinction between the two that we can learn from?

- Saul's sinful behavior was followed by more disobedience, pride and selfishness.
- David's sinful behavior was followed by repentance.
- In Psalm 51 David gives a heartfelt confession and repentance.

In David God gives us a foreshadowing of the great King to come, Jesus.

- God knew the heart of David and the heart of Saul
- God knows your heart
- In 1 and 2 Samuel God shows us what the difference is between Saul and David, a repentant heart, a heart that always wants to do what is right before the Lord, but confesses and changes when convicted of sin.
- David was not perfect, He did not do everything right, but he does serve as an example of what to do when we sin...repent.
- In 1 and 2 Samuel God is ultimately redirecting their desire for a righteous king to the messiah to come...Jesus.
- God had raised up great leaders in their history, but nothing like what was to come...in the person of Messiah, the true King, God Himself, Jesus Christ.

- God desires this Kingly relationship with you.
- His rightful place of honor, glory and praise.
- While human kings/rulers may triumph over the enemies of our nation
- Our God, King Jesus, triumphs over the enemy of our souls.
- Look to Jesus as King and enter into the royal family of God.

- The message is the same as Joshua 24:15: *“choose for yourselves today whom you will serve ... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*