



## The King is Dead, Long Live the King

32nd in the “God’s King” Series

1 Samuel 31

March 26, 2023

Pastor Mickey Klink

### Introduction

In this passage, God directs us to see his greater purpose in our broken world and his true and chosen King.

### The Text: 1 Samuel 31

1) Death and destruction are everywhere at the end of Saul’s reign, yet God is still God.

Hannah’s prayer: <sup>2</sup> “There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. <sup>3</sup> “Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. <sup>4</sup> “The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. <sup>5</sup> Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. <sup>6</sup> “The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. <sup>7</sup> The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. <sup>8</sup> He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. “For the foundations of the earth are the Lord’s; on them he has set the world. <sup>9</sup> He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. “It is not by strength that one prevails; <sup>10</sup> those who oppose the Lord will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed” (1 Sam 2:2-10).

2) The life and death of Saul make one glaring point: Jesus was always the one assigned to be God’s King.

#### king Saul

Saul turns to his armor-bearer  
Saul seeks to escape the path of suffering  
Saul took his life to avoid shame  
The hanging of Saul’s body was his humiliation  
Saul’s death was “good news” to God’s enemies  
Saul’s death was the result of God’s judgment

#### versus

#### King Jesus

Jesus turns to his Father  
Jesus was willing to suffer as assigned by the Father  
Jesus gave his life to receive shame  
The hanging of Jesus’ body was his exaltation  
Jesus’ death was “good news” to God’s people  
Jesus’ death was the result of God’s redemption

#### Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus:

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

### Response

King Saul is Dead. Long live, King Jesus! May the church let him alone rule in our hearts.

## Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

- 1) Why does Scripture give us insight into Saul's final moments before death and his conversation with his armor-bearer (vv. 3-5), and what might that teach us?

- 2) Read the prayer of Hannah in 1 Samuel 2:2-10 below. How does her prayer at the book's beginning help explain the hope that remains at the book's end?

<sup>2</sup>“There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. <sup>3</sup>“Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. <sup>4</sup>“The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. <sup>5</sup> Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.

<sup>6</sup> “The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. <sup>7</sup> The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. <sup>8</sup> He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. “For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's; on them, he has set the world. <sup>9</sup> He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. “It is not by strength that one prevails; <sup>10</sup> those who oppose the Lord will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

- 3) With the help of the comparison chart below, how is Jesus such a better King than Saul?

**king Saul**

**versus**

**King Jesus**

*Saul turns to his armor-bearer*

*Jesus turns to his Father*

*Saul seeks to escape suffering*

*Jesus willingly suffered as assigned by the Father*

*Saul took his life to avoid shame*

*Jesus gave his life to receive shame*

*The hanging of Saul's body was his humiliation*

*The hanging of Jesus' body was his exaltation*

*Saul's death was “good news” to God's enemies*

*Jesus' death was “good news” to God's people*

*Saul's death was the result of God's judgment*

*Jesus' death was the result of God's redemption*

- 4) How do Christians today act like Israel by trusting in earthly kings of our choosing rather than trusting in the Lord (King!) Jesus Christ? How can our dual citizenship help us rely on Jesus even as we live under earthly kings?

- 5) In what other ways, if any, did this passage speak into your life to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you in righteousness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)?

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the message of this week's text: Isaiah 9:6-7 (Mon); Daniel 7:13-14 (Tues); John 18:33-37 (Wed); Ephesians 1:15-23 (Thurs); Revelation 19:11-21 (Fri).