

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: 25 September 2022
Services: *Across the diocese*
Series: 1 Samuel – In search of a King
Passage: 1 Samuel 16-17
Title: *The King who saved his people*

Introduction

- ✘ **Week 1 - Samuel** is raised up to **rescue God's people**.
- ✘ **Week 2** - even though God's people think God can be **manipulated**, both **they** and the **Philistines learn** that he is **King**, as they do **battle** with the ark of the **covenant**,
- ✘ **Week 3** – Israel **reject** God as **King**, as they want a **king** like all the **nations**. God gives them over to their **desires** and **GIVES** them a **King!**
- ✘ **Week 4** – Saul is **anointed, elected and confirmed** as King... **God's doing entirely**
- but ✘ **last week** - almost **immediately** demonstrates his **unworthiness** for the role by not obeying God's **specific commands** as revealed through **Samuel**
- And now we turn this morning to **chapter 17**
- **Three questions we're asking** – what is the passage about? What does it teach us about God? How does it teach us about Jesus?

1) ✘ **WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?**

a. **David anointed King – 16:1-13**

- ✘ You'll probably **all** remember the account from **Sunday school** days – Samuel – **mourning** for **Saul** because of God's **rejection** of **him** as **king**, – is now called on to go anoint **another king!**
- Samuel's **tendency** – matches **ours through and through** – we do it all the time **don't we?** – i.e. **judge by outward appearance**. He saw **Eliab**, strapping eldest son of **Jesse** and thought **he** must be **God's choice**
- But the **Lord** said to **Samuel** – 16:7 – *The Lord does not look at the things **people** look at. People look at the **outward appearance**, but the Lord looks at the **heart**.* That is a **great lesson** for us in itself **isn't** it? To not make **too many** assumptions from someone's **outward appearance!! //**
- Well – Jesse had **seven** of his sons parade in front of **Samuel** – but **one by one**, the Lord told **Samuel** that it wasn't any of **these** he had **chosen**.
- 'Do you have any **MORE** sons?' asked Samuel?
- 'Well the **youngest** is out tending the sheep' – as if to say – **surely you are not interested in HIM!**
- The Lord said to **Samuel** – 'rise and anoint **HIM**; **he is the one....** And from that day on the **Spirit** of the Lord came upon **David** in **power...**
- And now look at **16:14** – for as **soon** as we read the **Spirit** came upon **David** in **power**, we read that the **Spirit** of the Lord **DEPARTED** from **Saul!**...
- And so the **transfer** of God's **anointing** as **King**, God's **blessing** as **King** and God's **empowering** by His **Spirit** for the **kingship**, **was now upon David!**
- And in a sobering **postscript** – we read that an **evil** – or better – '**harmful**' spirit from the Lord **tormented**

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Saul...

- Some have understood this as bouts of deep **depression**...
- **b. [Troubled Saul finds solace in David's music – 16:12-23]**
- ☒But whatever form it **took**, troubled **Saul** finds **solace** in **David's music** and in an **ironic twist**, the **new King** becomes a **music therapist** to the **old King**... and whenever that spirit from the Lord **hit**, **David** (who had become an **armour bearer** in Saul's service) would take his **harp** and **play** (16:23) and **Saul** would feel **much better**.
- **c. A giant of a battle – 17**
- Ch 17 begins ominously: *the Philistines gathered their forces for war.*
- Israel had **forgotten** that God had faithfully delivered them from their enemies.
- Indeed, only when they **abandoned him** did their enemies gain the upper hand, as so **often** happened in the book of Judges and back in 1 Sam 4
- Then whenever they turned **back** to the Lord and cried out for **help**, he **delivered** them.
- the threat to Israel **posed** by this giant of a man is very **real**.
- The power that stood against the people of **Israel** was truly **terrifying**. It would be **astounding** if anyone could deliver Israel from this **monstrous threat**.
- Have a look with me at v11 *On hearing the Philistine's words, **Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.***
- **You would be too!!**
- We **too** know very real threats that could intimidate us.
- There are **terrifying** and **spiritual** forces **against us**, **tempting** us to **fear**.
- And yet, just as Hannah proclaimed back in Ch 2 that, "*the adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces*", so too can we be confident, as Paul was in Romans 8:32, that "*if God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him, graciously give us all things?*" ///
- **David** comes on the scene. We're introduced to him once more. He tends his father's sheep but he loves to go the frontline with supplies from his father for his brothers.
- And as he's talking to his brothers... two words at the end of v23 grab our attention.
- *David **heard**... he **heard**.*
- David heard Goliath's now **twice daily tirade**.
- While **Saul** didn't appear to have any plan of attack against Goliath, **David** was indignant that Goliath should defy (or mock) the **armies** of the **living God**.
- He spoke of **taking away** the **mockery** from Israel, rather than being **shattered** by it.
- He saw, as no one else saw, that this **uncircumcised Philistine**, this **pagan worshiper of dead gods**, was mocking not only **Israel**, but Israel's **God**, who alone was the **living God**!
- The Spirit-filled young man named **David** saw Goliath **differently**.

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- His brothers were **unimpressed** by the apparently presumptuous bravado, but word spread about what David was saying and it was not long before a report reached Saul.
 - As the **failed king** met the **king-elect**, it is **astonishing** to see how David took **charge** of the **meeting**.
 - V32 *Let no one lose heart. Your servant will go and fight.*
 - **Outrageous! Preposterous!**
 - These words came from a **small, skinny youth**, too **young** to leave **home**.
 - For this kid to tell the king that he need not be afraid anymore because he (David) would fight the Philistine was either **stupid** or **audacious** or . . . was it something else?
 - *Do not be **afraid**. I will fight for you.*
 - We're reminded of these same words of the angels to the shepherds – *do not be afraid; the baby lying in a manger will save you from your enemies. CRAZY!*
 - Saul was **incredulous**.
 - But David **defended** his claim on the basis of the way he defended his **sheep**.
 - Ultimately David pointed to his strong and only hope v37 – *“the LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”*
 - David **saw** things this way, because he was the **anointed one on whom the Spirit of the Lord had permanently come!**
 - As David and the Philistine eventually approached one another, Goliath only saw as **man** sees and was filled with **contempt**.
 - **Because** God was **with David**, the disaster against a real **threat** in the form of a **Giant** did not **happen**.
 - **Because** the Lord God had chosen a **king for himself** (16:1) on whom the **Spirit** of the Lord had **powerfully come** (16:13), it became clear that he was about to **fight** the **Philistine** (17:32).
 - David came in the **name** of the **Lord**; the Philistine **mocked** the **Lord**; and consequently, he would be **destroyed**.
 - With David's victory, the world would know who **God is**.... Have a look with me a v46 *this day the LORD will hand you over to me and I'll strike you down and cut off your heard. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel....*
 - **God's servant... God's battle... God's victory... /////**
- 2) ✘ [WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT GOD?]
- a. ✘ **God saves by raising up a saviour**
 - We saw this in our **first** sermon as **Samuel** was raised up for **THAT** time in **Israel's history**.
 - Now threatened once **again** by the **Philistines** and their great **champion**, God raises up a **saviour** for them in the **person** of **David**.
 - And, **furthermore**,
 - b. ✘ **God saves by unlikely means with a surprising weapon**
 - ‘Why have you come here’? – says his brothers to **David**...

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- ‘You’re only a **boy**’, says Saul. ‘**You**’re not able to go out and fight against this **Philistine**.’
- ‘Am I a **dog**, that you come at with **sticks**?’, says Goliath.
- The whole notion of sending a **boy** to fight a **giant**!
- How **foolish**! How **absurd**!
- But it only serves to prove that it is **GOD** who has raised up this **saviour**, **God** who has given him the **courage** and **God** who gave him the **victory**!
- As David said – *I come against you in the name of the **Lord Almighty**, the **God** of the **armies of Israel**, whom you have **defied**.... The **Lord** will hand you over to **me** and the **whole world** will know that there is a **God in Israel**!*
- An unlikely **means** – the **boy King David** – the unlikely **weapon** – a sling and a stone.
- **God’s battle** – **God’s victory**.
- And the **final thing** we learn about **God**?
 - c. ✘ **God saves though his people don’t deserve it**
- They had **rejected God** has **king** – the God who had so **often rescued** and **saved** them in the **past**...
- They wanted to be like **all the nations** around **them**
- Their first **King** was a **sad failure**...
- Now **again** – as in the period of the **judges**... they were in the midst of **another cycle** of **rebellion**.
- They didn’t **deserve** God’s deliverance from the **Philistine menace** once **again**!
- But as we saw **last week** (12:22) *for the sake of his **great name** the Lord will **not reject his people**, because the Lord was **pleased** to make [them] his **own**...*
- So – against **all** that they **deserve** – the Lord **saved** them **through David**.
- So >>>>
- 3) ✘ **HOW DOES IT POINT US TO JESUS?**
 - No doubt you can already see the **links**.
 - It’s as **profound** as it is **simple**.
 - a. ✘ **God saves by raising up a Saviour**
 - As we saw in our very **first** Samuel sermon, the God who had so **often** raised up a **saviour**, raised up our **great Saviour Jesus**.
 - Galatians 4:4 *when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law...*
 - You will call his name **Jesus** – for he will save his people from their **sins**.
 - **Behold** the lamb of **God** who takes away the **sin** of the **world**.
 - **Jesus** was the one who came in the **line** of King **David**... who would **save** his people from **sin** and then take his **reign** as **King**!
 - In **Jesus**, God **saves** by raising up a **Saviour**, and;

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b. ☒God saves by unlikely means with a surprising weapon

- A **young boy** with a **sling shot** and a few **small stones**?
- **How absurd!**
- A **messiah** on a **cross**? Even **more** absurd.
- Messiah **crucified** – a **stumbling block** to **Jews** and **foolishness** to **Gentiles**!
- But **nevertheless** – God was **in Christ**, **reconciling** the world to **himself** and not counting men's sins **against** them... As **astonishingly**, God made him who had **no sin** to **be sin** for **us**... so that in him we might become the **righteousness** of **God**...
- An **unlikely means** – yet God was pleased through the **foolishness** of what was **preached** to **save** those who **believe**!
- And as with **David**, the **foolishness** of the **cross** – only serves to demonstrate that it was **God's battle**, that it was all **God's doing**, and all **God's victory**...
- ☒And **all** for people who don't **deserve** it...

c. [God saves though his people don't deserve it]

- *For because of his great love for us, **God who is rich in mercy**, made us **alive with Christ** even when we were **dead due to sin**...*
- While we were **still sinners**, Christ **died** for **us**...
- all because of the **incomparable riches** of his **grace**, expressed in his **kindness** to us in **Christ Jesus**...!
- I don't **deserve** what he has **done**. My **back** was **turned**, my **heart** was **hard**, my **eyes** were **blind** – but he **drew me** to **himself**, **softened** my **heart**, **opened** my **eyes**...
- I was **dead** and he gave me **life**, **guilty** and he **acquitted** me...
- Because when he cried out on the cross – '**it is finished**' – he had **taken** my **sin**, **conquered death** and **opened** the gates of **heaven** for **me**... ☒ blk (end of slides)

CONCLUSION

- We look at the boy **David** – **armed** with a **sling shot** and **pebbles**... and we are **amazed** at his **bravery**, **astonished** at the **victory** and in **praise** of the God who rescued **Israel** through **David** that **day**.
- 'awesome' is an overused word – but it was an **awesome rescue** from an **awesome God**.
- But **then** – then we look at the **Lord Jesus** – **God's own Son** – and we **see** him on the **cross**... and we are **amazed** and **humbled** by his **obedience**, **astonished** at the **victory** over **sin** and **death** he **won** for us and as we **stand** at the **Garden**, in front of the **empty tomb** with the stone **rolled away** – we are in **praise** of the **God** who **rescued us** that **great day**.
- It was an **awesome rescue** from an **awesome God**.