

Series: 1 Samuel: Harp and Spear X

Text: 1 Samuel 23:1-29

HI: The true king will reign.

Title: *The King and the Rock*

Hook: Who's in charge?

Date: 3.10.24

Purpose: To magnify the Lord's sovereignty through the news that all worldly powers will bow to the one true King.

FCF: It appears the deck is stacked against the Lord's chosen king, yet God delivers him again and again. We see God's grace clearly at work, in the good news that his true king will reign.

COR: The amazing slipperiness of David throughout this story is either incredibly fortuitous or a matter of divine intervention.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: "Rock of escape" → Psalms → Christ

Apologetic: How does our world still exist? Rulers like Saul are the norm throughout history, and yet God's people continue to grow and thrive despite all resistance. Could it be that there is a true king who rules above and beyond all earthly power?

Text Tone: Teaching

Preaching Voice: Priest

Form: Hourglass

Call to Worship: Psalm 24:9-10

Benediction: 1 Timothy 6:12, 14-16: Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses... until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Outline:

[Preach movements inductively]

I. As their enemies swarm, the Lord directs and delivers his people. (1-14)

A. The true king saves God's people. (1-5)

B. The true king seeks the Lord. (1-11)

C. The true king is man-rejected, but God-protected. (11-14)

II. The will of the Lord always outmaneuvers the power of this world. (15-29)

HI: The true king will reign. (15-18)

(Two guarantees)

A. Worldly power attracts allegiance. (19-29)

B. God's kingdom is sure. (19-29)

Main Idea:

Subject: Why can't Saul lay a hand on David?

Complement: Because the Lord directs and protects his chosen king.

Exegetical Idea: Saul can't lay a hand on David because the Lord directs and protects his chosen king.

Theological Idea: The Lord's chosen king will reign despite every effort to thwart him from the powers of this world.

Homiletical Idea: The true king will reign.

Introduction:

READ 1 Samuel 23:1-14

23 Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors." ² Therefore David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah." ³ But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" ⁴ Then David inquired of the Lord again. And the Lord answered him, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand." ⁵ And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

⁶ When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand. ⁷ Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." ⁸ And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. ⁹ David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." ¹⁰ Then David said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. ¹¹ Will

the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O Lord, the God of Israel, please tell your servant.” And the Lord said, “He will come down.” ¹² Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?” And the Lord said, “They will surrender you.” ¹³ Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition. ¹⁴ And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

I. As their enemies swarm, the Lord directs and delivers his people. (1-14)

READ 1 Samuel 23:15-19

¹⁵ David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. ¹⁶ And Jonathan, Saul’s son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. ¹⁷ And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this.” ¹⁸ And the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

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Eugene Peterson “covenant” – “That rare commitment that keeps personal relationships from being sucked into and destroyed in the fetid swamps of subjectivism. Covenant keeps us available to one another for affection and help without using the other for personal convenience or social and political gain.”

READ 1 Samuel 23:19-29

¹⁹ Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeath, saying, “Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon? ²⁰ Now come down, O king, according to all your heart’s desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king’s hand.” ²¹ And Saul said, “May you be blessed by the Lord, for you have had compassion on me. ²² Go, make yet more sure. Know and see the place where his foot is, and who has seen

him there, for it is told me that he is very cunning. ²³ See therefore and take note of all the lurking places where he hides, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah.” ²⁴ And they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul.

Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. ²⁵ And Saul and his men went to seek him. And David was told, so he went down to the rock and lived in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. ²⁶ Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them, ²⁷ a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land.” ²⁸ So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape. ²⁹ And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.

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II. The will of the Lord always outmaneuvers the power of this world. (15-29)

Psalm 62:1-2:

¹ For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

20 times in the Psalms, the Lord is referred to as “my rock”

Psalm 94:22

²² But the Lord has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.

READ Psalm 18:1-3, 16-19, 31

¹ I love you, O Lord, my strength.

² The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,

my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³ I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,

and I am saved from my enemies.

¹⁶ He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.

¹⁷ He rescued me from my strong enemy
and from those who hated me,
for they were too mighty for me.

¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
but the Lord was my support.

¹⁹ He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

³¹ For who is God, but the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?—

Jonathan Edwards: “This mountain or rock, as it is called, was a type of Christ, the Rock of Israel and the Rock of Ages, who is the rock of their defense.”

The true king saves God’s people.

The true king seeks the Lord.

The true king is man-rejected, but God-protected.

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