

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 2/10/2019

“The Rescue of God’s People & the Rise of His King” from 1 Samuel 29-31 by Drew Hunter

Overview

As the book of 1 Samuel comes to its tragic conclusion, we are left with a juxtaposition between the king who became God’s enemy (Saul) and the king anointed to replace him (David). Yet even king David falls well short of the perfect King this world longs for and will ultimately have when Christ returns. In the final three chapters of 1 Samuel, we see:

- 1) Upward: God’s Rise
- 2) Downward: Saul’s Fall
- 3) Across: God’s Providence

Despite the failure of Israel’s first kings, we are reminded that God remains in control of all and can rest in the fact that Jesus is the King this world has always wanted and needed.

Quotations

“One way to ‘prohibit recourse to violence by ourselves’ is to believe that God will make all things right one day.” -Miroslav Volf

“Recurring nightmares of malevolent winds tornadoing through my bedroom—a metaphor, I now realize, for an invisible and vindictive god.” -Julia Scheeres, in response to what the notion of sin caused her to feel toward God

Understanding & Application

- 1) In what ways (including physical/character traits as well as theological categories) is David greater than Saul? In those same ways, how is Jesus greater than David?
- 2) In times of his greatest distress, David strengthened himself in the Lord. How did David do that? Hint: it involved Jonathan.
- 3) In your times of greatest distress, where have you been tempted to turn for comfort instead of God?
- 4) How is David’s generosity highlighted in this story by the author? Why do you think the author was inspired by the Holy Spirit to highlight that specific aspect of this story?
- 5) What is your reaction to the end result of Saul’s life?
- 6) How do we see both God’s patience and justice in the life of Saul?
- 7) How might God’s trait of justice actually help us to refrain from seeking revenge against someone who gravely wrongs us? See the Miroslav Volf quote above for further reference.