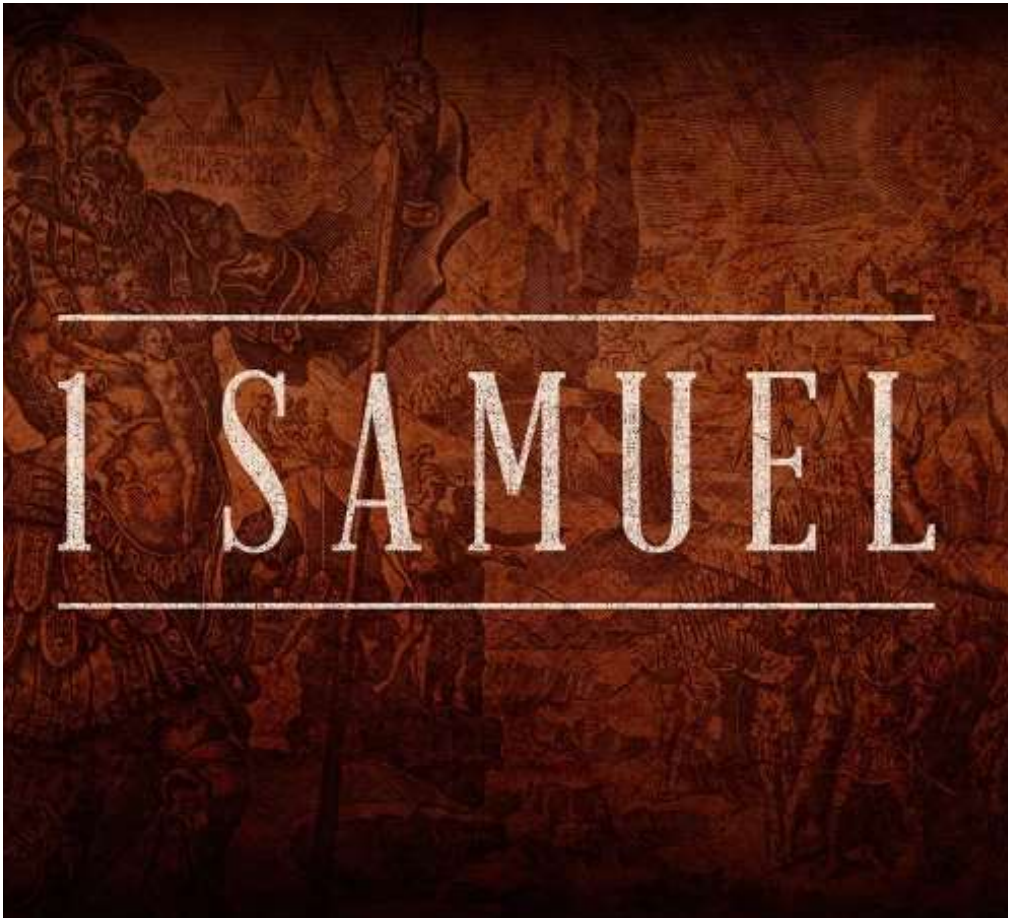


# Let's Worship God

30th August - 4th Sept. 2020

1 Samuel



# 1 SAMUEL

## **Monday - 1 Samuel 19 - Rage Against the Messiah**

Saul is a despicable person, isn't he? David is only a young man, in late teens or early twenties. He is handsome and brave. He's well spoken, musical, and the type of guy people like to be around. He is the national darling. Everyone loves him, except Saul. Saul is angry and afraid, consumed with murderous jealousy. When he is not hurling spears he is hatching schemes to mastermind David's murder under the guise of generosity. David had got Saul out of a hole - while Saul was cowering in his tent David stepped into the void. Saul was paralysed by the Philistines, but David pulverised them - Saul had got a victory he didn't deserve. Yet, "Saul was David's enemy continually" (18:29). What a scumbag!

We tend to think of ourselves as David - God's man or woman, brave and bold. If we're experiencing opposition or problems then it is someone else's fault, they are the one with anger or fear issues. We're David and our problem person is Saul. But this week let's look at the story from another angle. David is God's messiah, his chosen ruler of his people. Saul owes him obedience, submission, and service. Just as his son Jonathan had handed over his royal weapons and clothes (18:3-4), relinquishing his right to rule, Saul should have too. He might not have had to go so far as to abdicate, but he should have mentored and prepared David. Instead, we see in this chapter that Saul rages against the messiah.

Now we get a whole new view on this story - it's a lens through which we see the person and work of Jesus, God's ultimate Messiah, and the reactions to him. Saul's rage against the Messiah reveals the default reaction of the wicked human heart to God's Messiah. This is the heart we are all born with. This is the nature of sin; it is rejection of God's rule and rebellion against his Messiah. When we tolerate, feed, or indulge sins, it may not be conscious rage against the Messiah, but it's rejecting his rule over us. This is the ugliness of sin. See Saul; see yourself.

### **Questions**

1. How are we more like Saul than David in this story? What sets David apart from 'normal' people like us?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to give us eyes to see the ugliness of sin this week.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed. Psalm 2:1-2b

**Praise: Psalm 2:1-4 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## **Tuesday - 1 Samuel 19:1-7 - Causeless Rage**

In chapter 18 Saul's attempts to kill David have been secret. He's had the cover of his spiritual troubles and Philistine attacks for his attempts to dispatch his rival. Now he moves into the open - verse 1. Saul must be unaware of Jonathan and David's deep friendship. Jonathan moves to protect David (verses 2-3) and to mediate for David (verses 4-5).

Jonathan's brave rebuke makes a compelling case (verses 4-5). It is rational - David has not sinned against Saul, but rather brought Saul much good, in which Saul rejoiced. He makes a theological case too - through David the LORD has worked a great salvation. Lastly, he makes a moral case - he has not sinned against Saul; David is innocent and his murder would be without cause. It's a case that is compelling even to Saul - verse 6.

So it is with Jesus Christ - our rage against him is causeless. There is no cause in his life: his adversaries couldn't pin any crime on him, and Jewish and Roman courts could not find anything to convict him of. There is no cause in his being: he is God, righteous, holy, and pure. There is no sin in him. There is no cause in his works and ways. Jonathan's words echo through the ages: "he has done much good," and he still does. He sustains and upholds life as King. He gives us all the necessities for life, and many unnecessary pleasures. What about our trials and troubles though - surely here are things for which we can charge him with doing wrong to us? Job thought he had a case for God to answer, but he discovered that God's transcendence, holiness, righteousness, and goodness mean that he is not judged by our standards, but by his own. If we were to bring him to trial, the things we thought we could indite him for would reveal to us that he has been acting in love towards us all along (Romans 8:28). When it comes to our salvation, he took his life in his own hands, laid it down, and defeated the giant. Through him God worked a great salvation for his people (verse 5). No-one can bring a charge against him; nothing in him provokes our sin - it is causeless rage.

### **Questions**

1. How does Jonathan's description of David in verses 4-5 shadow the Lord Jesus?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to forgive you for the causeless sins you have committed.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed.  
Psalm 2:1-2b

**Praise: Psalm 35:7, 16-18 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## **Wednesday - 1 Samuel 19:8-10 - Blindly Jealous Rage**

The second incident in this chapter is a replay of chapter 18. After David wins victories over the Philistines, a spirit of harm comes upon Saul. David is playing music to soothe his mood, and Saul tries to turn him into a pin cushion. It's clear that David's success is driving Saul's murderous rage. Saul is afraid because he is threatened and angry, having been brought down a peg or two. Here is deep jealousy. It is blinding jealousy too. David is winning wars for Saul, bringing peace and prosperity to his Kingdom. He is striking and putting to flight the Philistines (verse 8). Yet, David is "being struck and put to flight" (verse 10). He's being treated like a Philistine!

Saul's jealousy is driven by David being above him and receiving the credit instead of him. Saul is jealous because David is in the number one spot. Now think of our own hearts: we want to take credit for the good we do, we want others to think well of us, we want the kingdom, and the power, and the glory to be ours. But Jesus demands the credit for the good we do, that others think well of him, that the kingdom, and the power, and the glory be his. Jesus demands, rightfully, the position we want for ourselves. Like Saul, we too are blind to the good he does to us, blind to the blessings and victories under his rule.

Our attitude should be less like Saul's and more like John the Baptist: "I must decrease and he must increase" (John 3:30). We must melt into the background and Jesus must have centre stage. A sinful hearts puts ourselves centre stage, driven by jealousy of his success and blindness to his power.

## **Questions**

1. How have you been trying to stay on centre stage in your life?
2. Do you resent that the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are his?

## **Prayer Points**

1. "Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, amen."
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed. Psalm 2:1-2b

**Praise: Psalm 35:1-6 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## Thursday - 1 Samuel 19:11-17 - Intense Rage

The third incident seems to happen the same night as the spear throwing. Saul sends a hit-squad to watch David's house. But David's wife Michal, Saul's daughter, acts as informant and David shimmy's out a window - think of the classic prison-break with the bedsheets tied together to make a rope! Michal answers the door to Saul's commandoes who are demanding his life. She has a thermometer in her hand and towels soaked from dabbing her "sick" husband. The word from Saul is, "Bring bed and all; I'll kill him myself!" He plunges the sword into the pile in the bed, but there is only the clanging of metal - the lumpy person shape is only an idol wrapped in a blanket. Saul has been fooled and foiled.

Michal's ethics are questionable - why does she have an idol?; why does she tell a blatant lie? Perhaps this is revealing of her character, and relevant for later in the story. Leaving dubious ethics aside, we see something of the intensity of Saul's rage. He has a sick man hauled through the streets in his bed. He is willing to knock him off in cold blood while helpless in his sick bed. Most tellingly, he calls David "my enemy" (verse 17). What has David done to be classed as an enemy? David has fought his battles, won his wars, and delivered Saul from his enemies. This is an intense rage.

This is where sins ends up if we do not deal with it. It feeds, grows, deforms, and devours. People don't just wake up and commit great acts of evil; there is a slide and a growth from little to big. It's like a boulder going downhill, picking up speed, becoming ever more lethal. This intense rage we see in Saul is the full flowering of sin.

Maybe you don't feel like you rage against the Messiah, Jesus. But you're not fussed - you can take or leave him. This too is sin; he is either number one or you're trying to depose him. He's king or he's nothing - he doesn't share his throne; he's too good for that. And sin grows, flowering into intense rage against the Messiah.

### Questions

1. What little sins are you tolerating that will flower into intense rage against God's King?

### Prayer Points

1. Repent of carelessness, and indifference, which are the seeds of defiance.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed. Psalm 2:1-2b

**Praise: Psalm 59:1-5 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## Friday - 1 Samuel 19:18-24 - Disgracing Rage

David melts into the night and flees to Samuel at Ramah, though it's only 2 or 3 miles from Gibeah, Saul's capital. Saul hears and Saul sends - we have a showdown between God's king and God's Word. Given that God's Word, embodied by Samuel, had been sent before the king, made the king, and removed the king, it's no surprise who wins. Saul, the king, is under the authority of God's Word. Saul's men, sent to capture David are incapacitated and rendered ineffectual, joining in the prophesying. No-one is very clear what is actually happening here. This is different from the ecstatic ravings of 'prophets' in other religions - normally there was a whole ritual to get to that stage. It is different too from the Old Testament prophets. The word for 'prophesy' has a range of meaning, (for example, it is translated 'raving' in 18:10) including simply speaking a word. We can't be sure what exactly is going on here, and most authors agree that what they do is not vital.

The vital thing is why they do it - the Spirit of God comes upon them (verse 20). God intervenes to save his king. The incident climaxes with Saul himself coming down. What follows is something of a replay of chapter 10 when he was made king. Then, as now, he went to Ramah, asking directions at a well and prophesied with prophets. But in chapter 10 Saul was clothed in the Holy Spirit to equip him to rule as king, and the people marvelled, "Is Saul also a prophet?" Now he has his royal robes taken off him, symbolic of the removal of the Spirit to enable him to rule (16:14), and the people mock, "Is Saul a prophet...of course he's not!" Chapter 10 confirmed his kingship; chapter 19 confirms his loss of the kingship.

Saul ends the chapter as a pathetic figure of fun, not in control of himself, sitting in his pants - at best! (The word doesn't necessarily mean he was fully in his birthday suit). He's being mocked like the local drunk or village idiot. This is where rage against the Messiah leaves us - disgraced. Disgraced, shamed, and overcome by the power of God, eternally in Hell.

### Questions

1. How would you explain this strange incident to a child or a new Christian?

### Prayer Points

1. Thank God that he has preserved you from some of sin's disgrace, and in his grace can remove disgrace.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed. Psalm 2:1-2b

**Praise: Psalm 59:6-11 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## **Saturday - 1 Samuel 19 - The Ugliness of Sin**

As we review the whole chapter today, it speaks to us of the ugliness of a sinful heart: the sin that remains in your heart if you are a Christian, or the sin that rules your heart if you are not yet a Christian. Sin is causeless - Jesus has done you no wrong; rather, he has given you many undeserved blessings. Sin is blind jealousy: jealousy of his right to rule your life and blind to the good his rule does to you. Sin flows into an intense rage if left unchecked. Sin leads to shame and disgrace. That's the fruit of raging against God's Messiah.

But it is the ugliness of sin that makes the Gospel so beautiful. Jesus came to save those who raged against him. He gives his sinlessness as he takes our sin. He came to take away our shame and disgrace. The Messiah who is raged against delivers those who rage against him!

If you are troubled with a guilty conscience, troubled by your own rage against him, and concerned that he has not been ruling your life, the Messiah is merciful. He is merciful to all who submit to him and hand over control. Rage against the Messiah is overcome by the mercy of the Messiah.

This should give you great hope as you pray for your loved ones, neighbours and colleagues who are raging against the Messiah - either quietly or openly. He does not treat us as we deserve. Think of Saul - God could have wiped him out at Ramah, David could have dispatched him. But God's hand of judgement is stayed. Opportunity for repentance is given. And though Saul will not repent and will one day be judged, thankfully it is not always so for those who rage against Messiah. Rage against the Messiah is overcome by the mercy of the Messiah.

## **Questions**

1. Why does the ugliness of sin make the Gospel so beautiful?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for those who are raging against the Messiah.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed. Psalm 2:1-2b

**Praise: Psalm 60 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced  
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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