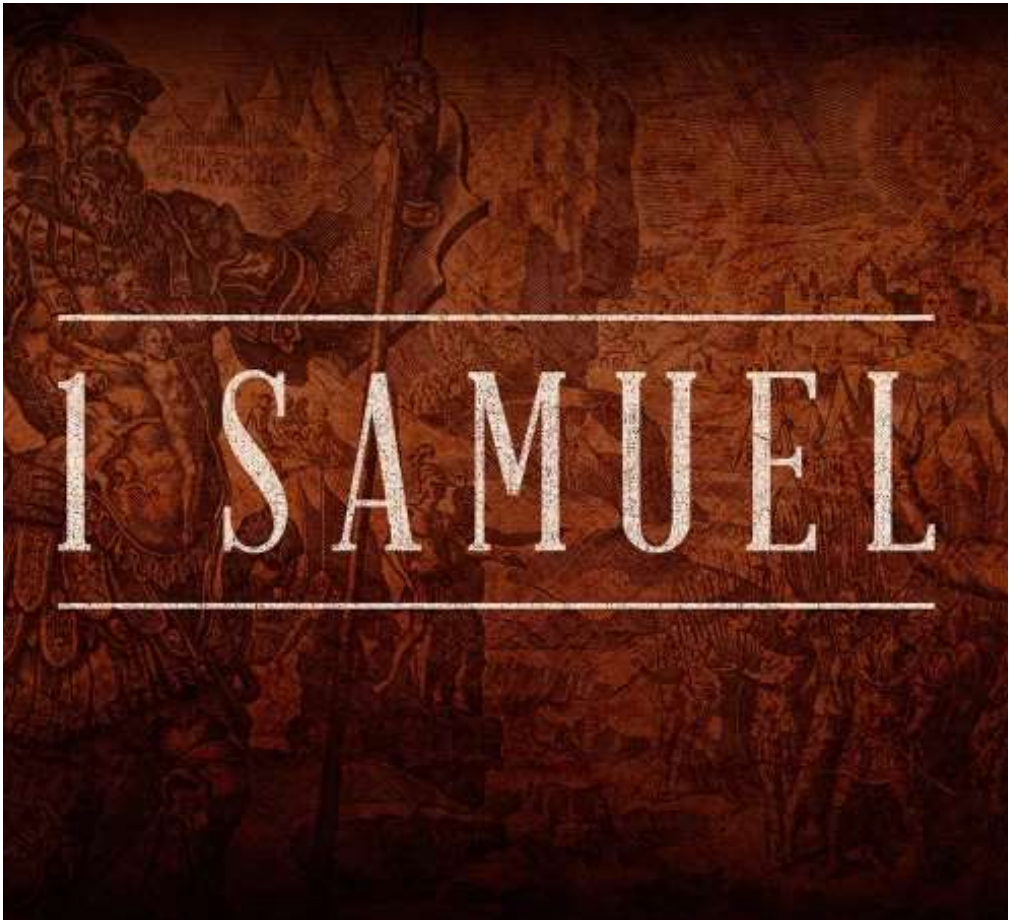


# Let's Worship God

6th-11th July 2020

1 Samuel



# 1 SAMUEL

## **Monday - 1 Samuel 11 - How Can This Man Save Us?**

"How can this man save us?" This is the derogatory question asked about Saul at the end of chapter 10. Some people despised him and saw no hope in him. What good would he be against the Philistines occupying areas deep in Israelite territory? (See 10:5 - there seems to be a garrison in Saul's home town.) What use would he be in relieving the pressure from Arameans in the north and Ammonites in the east. How could the farmer from the weakest tribe, who was found hiding in the luggage, be God's saviour-king? Do you see how these incidents speak directly to us and our world?

Today people still look at God's chosen saviour-king, Jesus, and despise him: "How can this man save us?" This man, who lived 2000 years ago and died as a criminal, what does he have to do with me? How can he help me in the issues I face: my troubled past, my current problems, my fears for the future? How can this man save us?

Maybe we feel more sympathy with the question than we like to admit. Do you look at people and the issues and baggage in their lives and think, "How can we do anything that will help?" Do you see apathy and total disinterest, hearing the silent question, "How can Jesus do anything for me?" Problems seem so big and apathy so strong that we are tempted to ask of Jesus: "Can this man save us?" Chapter 11 shows us how. Saul here is like a prototype of Jesus, the true and better saviour-king. Saul is a smaller and less than perfect model, yet nonetheless this saviour-king of Israel points us to Jesus, the saviour-king of the world.

## **Questions**

1. Whose life are you tempted to look at and doubt if Jesus is actually able to save them from those problems?
2. What areas in your life are you tempted to look at and feel like this?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to reveal the Spirit-empowered saviour-king to you this week.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?  
1 Corinthians 3:16

**Praise: Psalm 21:7-12 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## **Tuesday - 1 Samuel 11:1-4 - Saved from What?**

Israel are under attack by distant cousins (through Lot) from the East, the Ammonites. Persistent troublemakers of Israel, their King Nahash besieges Jabesh-gilead on the east bank of the Jordan. For whatever reason - cowardice, isolation, or lack of hope - Jabesh-gilead offer to sign a peace treaty which makes them servants of Nahash. The terms offered are humiliating - the gouging out of their right eyes (v2). As well as impacting depth perception, and thus disadvantaging in battle, the left eye was normally covered by the shield, meaning they would have no field of vision. So this act means they could serve him in the fields, but not fight him in battle. More than that - all Israel would be brought into disgrace, either by showing their helplessness before him or provoking them into battle to restore their honour. It seems like Nahash wants to pick a fight with all Israel; that's why he allows them to send messengers asking for help (v3). Here is a violent and vicious enemy, determined to degrade and disgrace God's people. This is what God's people need rescued from.

Nahash is merely a scale model of the ultimate enemy of God's people, Satan. He too is violent and vicious, determined to degrade and disgrace God's people. He prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). He's spoiling for a fight, and his goal is humiliating God's people, and thus God. This is what makes the Christian life so hard: "we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against... the spiritual forces of evil" (Ephesians 6:12). The church in this world is like Jabesh-gilead - besieged by a foe outside the gates, who is seeking to maim and mar, disgrace and destroy. But our position is worse, for we are already disgraced, deformed, and disgusting because of our sin. We are disabled and unable to fight this enemy. And this is what the saviour-king Jesus saves us from.

### **Questions**

1. How does Satan humiliate us?
2. How does sin disable us - what does it make us unable to do, or hard to do?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to deliver you from the disgracing and destroying effects of remaining sin.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?  
1 Corinthians 3:16

**Praise: Psalm 83:1-4, 11 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## **Wednesday - 1 Samuel 11:5-8 - The Spirit-filled King Gathers his People**

Verse 6 is the hinge of this incident. Before verse 6 Saul is acting like a common farmer. After verse 6 he is acting like a royal warrior. What is the difference between Saul pre-verse 6 and Saul post-verse 6 - the Spirit of God. The Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered king saves his people.

First of all, the Spirit-filled king gathers God's people (v7-9). The cutting up of the oxen is Saul's way of sending a picture message or Facebook image. He's sending out a warning of the economic consequences of inaction - "the same will be done to yours." But it is also a reminder: in Judges 19:29 a man had cut up the corpse of his violated mistress and sent it out as a summons to Israel to deal with the crimes of Gibeah, Saul's hometown. Jabesh-gilead had refused the summons (Judges 21:8-9) and been left weak and vulnerable (Judges 21:10-11). It's a vivid way of saying, "Remember what happens when we don't stand shoulder to shoulder." The result, in verse 8, is the second biggest assembly for war in the history of Israel. They come united "as one man" (v7). They come motivated by the fear, or reverence, of the LORD. The Spirit-filled king gathers a vast, united, motivated multitude ready for war.

Think for a moment of what the New Testament emphasises about Jesus. There are not many incidents that are recorded by all four Gospels. But all four record his baptism, where the Holy Spirit anointed him to empower him for ministry. He is the Spirit-filled saviour-king. The Holy Spirit empowered his miracles, his obedience, his preaching, his victory over death and sin by his crucifixion and resurrection. He is the true and better Saul. And the true and better Spirit-filled saviour king is gathering his people. He's mustering an army to besiege the gates of Hell by being his witnesses to the ends of the earth. When you gather on the Lord's Day your 'unit' in this army may be small, but you are part of a force that no man can number - millions-strong across the globe, millions-strong through time. We're not small - the King is gathering his people.

### **Questions**

1. Read Luke 3:21-22; then read Luke 4:1, 14, 18. How important was the Holy Spirit in Jesus' ministry?
2. What are the weapons of the Spirit-filled king's people - 2 Corinthians 19:4 and Ephesians 6:10-20.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks to God that you are part of an innumerable host gathered by King Jesus.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?  
1 Corinthians 3:16

**Praise: Psalm 22:21-25 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## Thursday - 1 Samuel 11:9-11 - The Spirit-filled King Routs God's Enemy

Ten miles west of the besieged city of Jabesh-gilead, Saul, the Spirit-filled king, springs into Spirit-empowered action. A hope-filled message is sent to the citizens, who, in return, send an ambiguous message to their enemy, Nahash. Saul marches overnight through the Jordan Valley, splits his troops into a three-pronged attack and launches a dawn raid on the heart of the enemy camp. The result is an absolute rout; the survivors are split and scattered. This is a staggering victory for a man with no military experience. "How can this man save us?" By the power of the Holy Spirit.

Remember now that Saul is the prototype of the true and better saviour-king. He paints an outline of and points towards King Jesus, the Spirit-filled saviour-king. By his death on the cross he saves his people. He saves his people by taking away the disgrace of sin - removing our guilt, breaking sin's power, healing our hurts, and promising sin's final removal. He saves his people by routing the enemy - the great snake has its head crushed under his feet. Think of evil routed like Nahash's army - "no two were left together".

If you are labouring under a heavy conscience today you need to let these truths sink in. The saviour-king has taken away our disgrace. When we come to him in repentance and faith he removes the disgrace of sin. The things of which we are ashamed, the stains that we wish were covered up - he washes and heals. The saviour-king has routed all his and our enemies. Satan does not control your life. Your temptations and fears are not more powerful than your saviour-king. "How can this man save us?" The victorious, saving, Spirit-filled king removes our disgrace and routs the enemy. He comes and grants help at the breaking of the Day (11:11; Psalm 46:5) - fresh mercies each morning.

### Questions

1. What disgrace do you fear?
2. What enemy do you fear?

### Prayer Points

1. Bring your feared disgraces and enemies to God, seeking fresh morning mercies.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?  
1 Corinthians 3:16

**Praise:** Psalm 46:1-6 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.

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# 1 SAMUEL

## **Friday - 1 Samuel 11:12-15 - The Day of Victory; the Day of Mercy**

"How can this man save us?" This is the question asked by worthless men (10:27) - worthless men who despised the king and stirred up discontent. They refused to bring any tribute (gift) to their new monarch. Now, after Saul's stunning victory, they are hunted out by the people for punishment.

What follows is a remarkable incident. Saul is not a merciful man, generally. We see this clearly later on in the story: he wipes out an entire city for helping a fugitive (chapter 22); pursues David like a hunter; and threatens several times to kill his own son. Yet here, he shows mercy. The day of victory is the day of mercy - v13.

Once again, Saul is foreshadowing the true and better Spirit-filled victorious saviour-king, Jesus. Although Jesus has won the victory over his great enemy, decisively triumphing through his death and resurrection, his day of victory is a day of mercy too. He doesn't crush all his foes as their despising of him deserves. He invites them to join his victory party. And this is the day we are in now - the day of victory, mercy, and salvation. There will come a day of judgement, when foes and despisers will be crushed, but it is not yet. Today the Spirit-filled king holds out mercy. This good news of the rout of Satan and the end of the disgrace of sin is to be believed, accepted, and rested in. The only way you can have victory is to join him in his victory. His victory must be your victory. You can't reform yourself. You can't remove guilt and disgrace yourself. You can't relieve the siege of a guilty conscience yourself. But the Spirit-filled king Jesus can. So look to him. Whether it is for the first time, or whether you need to recalibrate as you start or end this day.

## **Questions**

1. What hope does this section give us for loved-ones who are not yet Christians?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for today to be a day of mercy to those loved ones who don't yet know God's mercy.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?  
1 Corinthians 3:16

**Praise: Psalm 86A:8-11 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# 1 SAMUEL

## **Saturday - 1 Samuel 11 - The Same Spirit**

As we look at the darkness and hardness of the world we may be tempted to ask, "How can this man save us?" about our Lord Jesus. The answer is the same as it was for the Israelites: by the power of God the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit dwells inside us as came upon Saul and as empowered the Lord Jesus. The same Spirit works through his Word. The same Spirit applies God's words to our hearts, and applies his words through our words to others' hearts in evangelism. The same Spirit transforms our hearts. The same Spirit dwells in us and works through us. And he doesn't just come upon us to equip for specific tasks, like he did for Saul. He lives with us, joining us to Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Kingdom battles are daunting, tiring and frightening. Whether we are giving out leaflets, conversing with colleagues, or patiently playing the long game with family, the apathy, disinterest, and condescending pity brings us right up close to the hardness and deadness of the human heart. We know people ask this same question about Jesus: what can this man do to save us; why does he matter? The answer remains the same as it did in this chapter: by the work of God's Spirit. God's Spirit empowered God's king, Jesus, to win a great victory and salvation. The Spirit is still empowering. The king is still saving. The king is still gathering his people. It doesn't matter how hard, apathetic, and disinterested people are. We have God's Spirit, and he works through the preaching of his Word. God himself is working to create new life where there was death.

How can this man, Jesus, save people in our families and community? By the power of his Spirit - that's our hope.

## **Questions**

1. Why are apathy and hardness not barriers, ultimately, to salvation?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to give you confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to equip and empower you through the Holy Spirit
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?  
1 Corinthians 3:16

**Praise: Psalm 35 - 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!**

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