

King

1 Samuel 8

As we journey through the Bible Story ***we have come to major turning points for the nation of Israel.*** 1 Samuel 8 is one of these crossroads moments. Consider the landmark events we've studied so far in our one year journey through Scripture:

Open: A One Year Journey through the Bible

1. Life	5. Promise	9. Priest
2. Curse	6. Blood	10. Courage
3. Salvation	7. Law	11. Redeemer
4. Judgment	8. Atonement	12. King

After God created all of **life**, Adam and Eve rebelled and God's **curse** fell on them and the world in an event called the Fall. Later, when violence and evil spread all over the world God sent a flood to destroy all living things except those who were **saved** on the Ark with Noah. Even after that momentous event the people on earth gathered together at Babel, rejecting God's direction and authority over them and instead seeking to make a name for themselves. So God's **judgment** fell again and He scattered people all over the world, confusing their languages.

God's **promise** to Abraham marked the birth of the nation of Israel. The Passover and God's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt was their coming of age. They were marked by the **blood** of the lamb and thereby saved from God's wrath against the gods of Egypt. Then Moses gave them the **Law**, carved into stone. Central to God's Law was the Day of **Atonement** - an elaborate system of blood sacrifices to cover the many sins of His rebellious people.

The only hope for the wayward Israelites was in the person of a **Priest** or mediator who would intercede for them before the Holy God. Then they came to the border of the Promised Land. The first time they rebelled against God's command to go in. The second time, under Joshua, they were strong and **courageous** and crossed the Jordan River to take possession of the land God had promised long before to Abraham.

Last week we heard of the dark time of the judges when God's people increasingly descended into sin and idolatry. But in that darkness a Moabite named Ruth found hope and new life in Israel in the person of a Kinsman-**Redeemer** and even became the grandmother to Israel's future King - David. Which leads us to 1 Samuel 8 and Israel's fateful choice in v. 5.

"Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, 'Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king, to judge us like all the nations.'" 1 Samuel 8:4-5

Over and over in the Law God taught His people to be HOLY as He is holy. ***Their whole purpose as a nation was to be DIFFERENT from all the other nations so the whole world would see the glory of their God.*** But they consistently turned away from God, rejecting His reign over them and embracing the sinful, idolatrous ways of the nations around them. This decision with Samuel is about more than a king - it is about **their whole identity as a nation.** They were rejecting not just Samuel as their prophet and priest - they were rejecting GOD as their Lord and King.

“And the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but **they have rejected me from being king over them.**” 1 Samuel 8:7

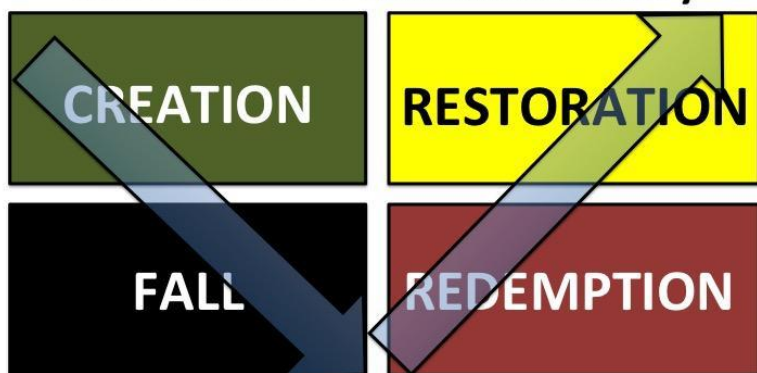
Look at your handout today and you’ll see the structure for this message which is the pattern of salvation history.

The Pattern of Salvation History



The top section represents ***God's intention and purpose*** as things were in the original creation and as they will be when Jesus comes back to restore all things. The bottom section represents ***our reality***, living as fallen people in a fallen world. But God has not left us without a REDEEMER. Jesus, the Creator, entered our fallen world to rescue us from sin and death and prepare us to live with Him forever in a new heaven and earth.

The Pattern of Salvation History



All of history is following this down and then up pattern. *Jesus Himself* followed this pattern - humbling Himself to be born as a human and being obedient even to death on a cross - therefore God exalted Him to the highest place. This is the pattern of salvation history and the pattern of our Savior and Lord - so we should not be surprised that ***it is the pattern for our lives.***

We are to live humble lives of repentance and faith as fallen people in a broken world. Our lives should be oriented downward, toward the cross and our Redeemer. But then as those who have been united with Christ and filled with His Spirit we should live in increasing holiness, obedience, boldness and power, anticipating the final restoration of all things when Jesus comes back.

Let's walk through 1 Samuel 8 observing this pattern.

First, Creation. Let's look at God's original intention.

1. CREATION - God's Design was to reign Directly

And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but ***they have rejected me*** from being king over them." 1 Samuel 8:7

God's design was to reign directly over His people. ***He was to be their God and King.*** He chose them to be His Holy nation, set apart from all other nations and peoples on earth. He gave them prophets and priests to speak to them on His behalf. When they needed extra help because of their sin God raised up judges - heroes - to rescue them.

This system required Israel to ***trust in the Lord continually and seek after Him.*** This was, of course, the essence of the Law Moses presented to the people: "You shall LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength." Jesus said this single command summed up the entire Law.

This remains God's desire for us. He wants to reign in your heart and life. ***There is only one throne in your heart and God will not share that seat.*** If you insist on ruling your own life then there is no place for Jesus to be your co-pilot. He is either the pilot or not in the plane. He is either captain or not on the ship. Jesus is either Lord and King of your life or He is not in your life. You cannot have Jesus have Savior without committing to Him as Lord.

People often talk about ***"receiving Jesus" as Savior - but that is a misleading statement.*** We don't receive Jesus into our lives - we beg Him to receive us into His life. We are not in a position to negotiate terms. He is the Creator and reigning King of the universe. We are rebels who have committed treason against His throne. We have withheld the worship He deserves and have devoted ourselves to other gods. The penalty for this treachery is death - both physical and eternal.

So we come to Jesus as traitors to the crown begging for mercy, pleading for pardon, because we recognize how far we fall short of His glory and how desperately we need Him.

1. CREATION - All people Flourish under God's Direction

And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but ***they have rejected me*** from being king over them." 1 Samuel 8:7

Just as the manufacturer of your car knows the best way to service that car, so our Creator knows best how we can flourish. God designed all people to be safest and happiest under His direction. Jesus does not want to reign in your life to KEEP you from happiness but to FILL you with happiness. The devil seeks to deceive us into believing life and joy can be found in other places but the truth is that we will only truly flourish if we submit to Jesus as Lord.

That is the second part of the pattern.

2. FALL - All people have Rebelled against God's Authority

"They have rejected me from being king over them. According to all the deeds that they have done... ***forsaking me and serving other gods.***" 1 Samuel 8:7-8

The nation of Israel rebelled against God's clear instructions to them - over and over forsaking the worship of the Lord and going after other gods. This was the trajectory of the time of the judges - a downward descent into increasing rebellion and idolatry. Instead of fighting to be separate from the nations they had driven out, ***they were corrupted by the people they failed to drive out.*** Instead of leading their neighbors to worship the One True God they were led by their neighbors into the worship of all sorts of false gods.

And the reality is that we all do the same thing. We are all rebels against the King. Instead of living as the holy people of God and worshiping Him in spirit and truth we compromise and allow ourselves to be corrupted by the world, our own flesh and the devil.

So we need to hear Samuel's warning here in verse 9 and after.

2. FALL - All people have Rebelled against God's Authority

"Now then, obey their voice; only you shall ***solemnly warn them*** and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them." 1 Samuel 8:9

God allowed Israel to make this choice. He even predicted in Deuteronomy 17 that they would go in this direction and gave them instructions on the kind of King they should choose. But God clearly warned them of the dangers involved with having a human king.

The Consequences for Rejecting God's Reign

He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons... He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields... He will take the tenth of your flocks, and ***you shall be his slaves.***" 1 Samuel 8:11-17

Whenever we reject God's authority and set over ourselves a different king, we become slaves to the one we submit to. This could be anything we elevate to GOD status - any good thing we make into an ultimate thing. It could be work or money or status or success or happiness or a relationship or goal or desire. It's your "if only" that you really believe if you had it you would be happy. Or it's your greatest fear in terms of the things you have that you most fear to lose.

For Israel this idolatry was embodied in a person - so let's focus today on the danger of idolizing another person and looking to them as YOUR KING. Look at the three roles Israel wanted their human king to play:

A King represented wisdom, leadership and protection

And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may ***judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.***" 1 Samuel 8:19-20

They wanted a king for ***wisdom, leadership and protection.*** They wanted a human king to judge them and settle their disputes. They wanted a human king to go before them - leading them in what they should do. And they wanted a human king to fight their battles for them.

Of course these are the main things God wanted to provide! ***He was their wisdom*** and had given them detailed instructions in the Law of Moses. ***God was their leader*** - literally going before them in a pillar of smoke and fire - dwelling among them in the tabernacle and going before them into battle as represented by the ark of the covenant. And ***God was their strength*** - fighting their battles for them as He had rescued them from Egypt without their assistance. Listen to Exodus 14!

God should have been their wisdom, leader and strength

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ***The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.***" Exodus 14:13-14 (NIV)

They saw this in the battle of Jericho. They saw it over and over in the time of conquest and then the time of the judges. Remember Gideon? He raised up an army of 32,000 but God said it was too many! He reduced the army to 300 men and armed them only with jars, torches and trumpets. Then, God said, they were ready to defeat the massive army of Midian!

The Lord was their refuge and strength - an ever present help in times of trouble. The Lord was their light and salvation, their stronghold. The Lord was their wisdom, their leader, their hope.

Yet they turned away from Him - they rebelled against His authority and set over themselves another king. And the rest of the story confirms the truth of Samuel's warning - they did indeed become slaves to the kings they had chosen. And the same thing is true of us when we reject God's authority and commit to anything or anyone else. Listen to Romans 6:

The Consequences for Rejecting God's Reign

“Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, *you are slaves of the one you obey*—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?” Romans 6:16 (NIV)

You've probably observed this in friends or family members in **unhealthy relationships**. Co-dependence used to be limited to people who would enable alcoholism or other chemical dependency in their mates. Now it is a category that has been broadened to cover many dysfunctional forms of relationship.

Israel's relationship with their kings is a great example of co-dependence. Both Israel and the king got something out of it - but instead of serving each other, they were USING each other. The king got power and glory. The people got a leader to follow - theoretically with wisdom, direction and strength. History would show that sometimes they got a good deal in their king but most often they did not.

All of us can fall into a pattern of co-dependence with other people. If you're like me and you grew up as a **people pleaser** you know the danger of living for the approval of people rather than God. You become a slave to the expectations and desires of others.

If you reject God's reign over you and elevate someone else into that supreme place in your heart and life - beware. ***Hear this warning.*** You will become a slave to that person's desires. Young people, hear this. It is a very common trap that teenagers and young adults come to define themselves by what others think and especially what girls or guys think of you. This is a very fickle master.

Thankfully at this point we turn the corner into hope because of our Redeemer God.

3. Redemption - God provided human kings

“And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, *the Lord has set a king over you...* Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil... but serve the Lord with all your heart.” 1 Samuel 12:13,20

Yes, it was evil for the nation to reject God and choose to have a king like all the other nations. But when Israel was unfaithful, God remained faithful. When Israel failed - which they did, over

and over - ***God never failed to keep His promises.*** There were consequences for their disobedience, but God always preserved the nation. He always called them back to Himself.

When Israel Failed, God remained Faithful

“And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. For the Lord will not forsake his people, *for his great name's sake*, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.” 1 Samuel 12:21-22

Ultimately God was committed to the glory of His own Name. It was God's reputation at stake in the survival of Israel. The story of Israel is the story of God's discipline upon His wayward children - but He never disowned them as His children.

You see, this whole pattern of salvation history is not - in the end - about us at all. It is all about GOD from beginning to end. And what we've been saying throughout this Open Series is that the Bible is One Story that points to Jesus all the way through..

In this account in 1 Samuel we see how God redeemed their very sinful choice by providing human kings to reign in His place until King Jesus arrived. And so the kings of Israel became pointers to Jesus.

Saul was the first king. He looked good at first, but did not finish well - sadly fulfilling all of Samuel's warnings about abusing and misleading the nation. But then God sent Samuel to a small town called Bethlehem to the house of a man named Jesse, the grandson of Boaz and Ruth. Jesse had EIGHT SONS and assumed the firstborn would be the one Samuel would anoint as king. But it wasn't the oldest and most likely that God chose but the youngest and least likely. In God's Kingdom it is the “last who are first; and the first who are last.”

So Jesse had to send for the youngest son - **a boy named David.** He was God's choice because God does not look at the outward appearance but at the heart. And David had a heart for the Lord. He loved God fiercely and joyfully. He trusted God completely. Saul strayed quickly into the traps Samuel warned about. David did eventually stumble as king, but overall his heart was for the glory of God and the building of His kingdom. Not the kingdom of David but the kingdom of Israel for the glory of the Lord.

One day David brought some snacks to his brothers who were lined up for battle against the Philistines - the great power of that time period. The Philistines had a champion - a giant named Goliath who stood almost ten feet tall. The army of Israel trembled before this powerful and intimidating warrior and none would venture out to face him in battle - least of all King Saul. When young David came to the battle lines and heard this giant mocking the Lord and the soldiers of Israel he said:

When Israel Failed, God remained Faithful

“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” 1 Samuel 17:26

So the young shepherd boy faced off against the most powerful warrior in the land. Where did David’s boldness come from? Here is what he said to Goliath:

“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day **the Lord will deliver you into my hand**, and I will strike you down and cut off your head.” 1 Samuel 17:45-46

David knew the battle would be decided not by the strongest warrior but by the strongest GOD. It was not David’s sling and stone that won that day - it was David’s GOD. We often apply this to ourselves as we consider the “giants” we face in our lives today - financial obstacles, sin struggles, relational challenges, work issues.

But the main thing to learn from the encounter of David with Goliath is not about us at all - it’s about **the TRUE KING, the ULTIMATE WARRIOR.**

God provided human kings as a temporary means of grace to His people until King Jesus arrived. ***David was just a shadow of King Jesus*** in the same way that the tabernacle was a shadow of heaven and the animal sacrifices were shadows of the cross.

This is the center of God’s work in salvation history - **REDEMPTION.** King Jesus stripped off his royal robes and was born as a helpless human baby. He went into battle not leading the angelic hosts of heaven but utterly unarmed. Yet he overcame every temptation - succeeding in the wilderness where Israel had failed time and again. Then Jesus fought his ultimate battle for us on the cross!

Here was the great GIANT that threatened not only to kill every one of us but to send us to an eternity of misery and judgment - **the GIANT of DEATH.** ***His two weapons were sin and the Law.*** Armed with the spear of sin to knock us down and the sword of the Law to finish us off this was a giant none of us could face on our own.

But then our Champion stepped onto the field of battle, not dressed as a warrior but stripped of all of his clothes and utterly exposed. He faced death by first being DEFEATED BY DEATH. But by letting the spear of sin pierce him and the sword of the law fall upon him, Jesus disarmed the giant death. And when Jesus rose from the dead he inflicted a crippling wound upon the giant death - what will be a mortal wound when Jesus comes back.

So the story of David illustrates the gospel for us. King David is a picture of King Jesus:

David	Jesus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anointed by Samuel ● After God's Heart ● Fought for God's Glory ● Weak before Goliath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anointed by the Spirit ● One w/ the Father ● Cleared the Temple ● Weak on the cross

- David was anointed by Samuel, as Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit.
- David was a man after God's own heart, as Jesus was one with the Father
- David was willing to fight for the glory of God, as Jesus was willing to overturn tables in the temple courtyard
- David was weak before the giant Goliath as Jesus was weak and exposed before the giant of Death.

David	Jesus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conquered in God's power ● Reigns over Israel ● Ruled 40 years ● Died 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raised by God's power ● Reigns over all things ● Rules at the Father's right hand ● Will reign forever

- David conquered the giant by the irresistible power of God as Jesus defeated death by the all-surpassing power of the resurrection.
- David reigned in glory over Israel as Jesus reigns in glory over the universe.
- David only reigned 40 years - but Jesus reigns forever at the Father's right hand.
- And when Jesus comes back he will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom forever - establishing perfect peace and justice!

So the main point of the David and Goliath story is not about David or us facing giants. It's about JESUS fighting for us. He won the decisive battle.

There is a CHAMPION who has defeated death. ***But the question is whether he is YOUR CHAMPION.*** Does Jesus represent you? When Israel faced off against the Philistines it was a representative battle. The Philistines had a champion - if he won the Israelites would be servants to the Philistines. But when David won, the Philistines fled because they knew David's victory meant they would be servants to Israel.

Jesus conquered sin and death forever. ***Have you trusted him with YOUR SIN and YOUR DEATH?***

3. REDEMPTION – Jesus Embeds His Goals and Desires in us

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you... I will move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” Ezekiel 36:26-27

When Jesus becomes your Champion He comes to live in your heart. The Holy Spirit of Christ begins to change your desires and goals so they line up more and more with HIS desires and plans. This is how God redeems even our biggest failures. The Spirit convicts us of our sin and helps us do better the next time.

We draw motivation for holiness and growth both from Jesus’ victory on our behalf and from the knowledge that *King Jesus is coming soon!*

4. RESTORATION - Jesus will reign directly when he comes back

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and *in righteousness he judges* and makes war.” Revelation 19:11

The One who humbled himself by being born as a human and being killed on a cross has been highly exalted. When he came 2,000 years ago it was in weakness in humility. When Jesus comes again it will be in power and great glory. When Jesus came at Christmas it was to announce peace on earth and the hope of salvation. When he comes again it will be to execute justice and wipe out his enemies.

Listen to Revelation 19.

4. RESTORATION - Jesus will reign directly when he comes back

“And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.” Revelation 19:14-15

4. RESTORATION - Jesus will reign directly when he comes back

“And *he will rule them* with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.” Revelation 19:15-16

Jesus will defeat all remaining enemies and restore all things to the beauty, peace and flourishing LIFE of the original creation. In fact, he will unmake this broken, sin-filled world and re-make a new heaven and new earth. Revelation 21:

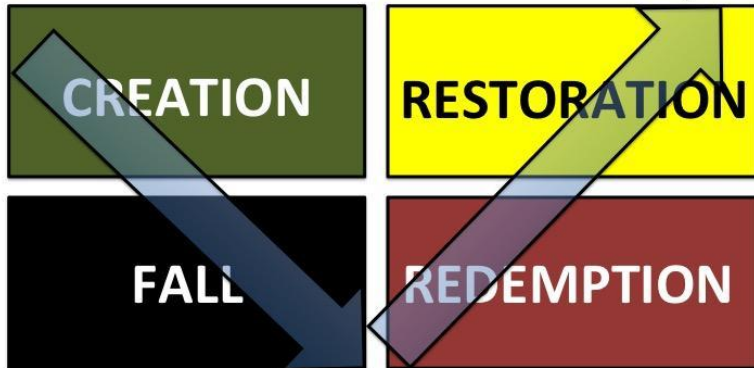
4. RESTORATION - Believers will flourish forever under King Jesus

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Revelation 21:5

He will wipe every tear from our eyes - there will be no more sadness or pain or sin or temptation. The old order of things will have passed away and everything will be peace and glory and joy in King Jesus.

Oh, believer, hold on to this hope - this certain future! King Jesus is coming! He spoke this universe into being as the Word of God. We messed it up with sin. But He came as Redeemer and will come back soon to RESTORE ALL THINGS.

The Pattern of Salvation History



This is the pattern for all of salvation history. It is the shape of Jesus' life. We see it in King David and Israel's other kings. And we see it in our own lives. If we humble ourselves and come to King Jesus in faith, He will redeem us and bring us home with Him forever!

Let's pray

BENEDICTION:

"And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:8-11