

“Redemptive Hope”
2 Samuel 1:1
(Preached a Trinity, June 24, 2018)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. 2 Samuel is a continuation of 1 Samuel. Although it bears the name of Samuel, he doesn’t actually appear in the book but his great influence remains. 1 and 2 Samuel tell the story of Israel’s first two kings. 1 Samuel ended with the end of the forty-year reign of King Saul while 2 Samuel covers the forty-year reign of David.
But 1 and 2 Samuel are not about Samuel, or Saul, or even David. It is about God who keeps covenant with His people.
Or as Dale Ralph Davis writes: “It is about a covenant God who makes covenant promises to a covenant king through whom he will preserve his covenant people.”¹
2. We can clearly see in 1 & 2 Samuel God’s sovereignty in His covenants. They are unilateral expressions of God’s redemptive purpose for His elect people. They hinge from the eternal covenant of redemption between the Father and the Son. God is keeping covenant in spite of the sinfulness of man.
3. We see in David God’s purpose for the world, the establishment of His reign in the hearts of man. We pray for it. “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done.” God’s promise to David of an everlasting reign finds its fulfillment in the eternal reign of Jesus Christ. What would be imperfect in the reign of David would be overshadowed by the perfect reign of the one who was to come.
Jeremiah 33:14-15 NAU - "Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ 'In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth."
4. **Verse 1** opens with, “Now it came about after the death of Saul.”
1 Samuel tells the sad story of Israel’s first king and his failure to reign in righteousness before God. It ends with his tragic death. From the viewpoint of the outsider, it appears to be an enormous failure of Israel’s desire for a king. But there’s more . . .

¹ Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity*, Focus on the Bible Commentary, (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2002), 9.

I. Israel's great hope

A. Israel's history was a history of failure

1. God created man in holiness. He was endowed with the ability to know God and enjoy God in righteousness. But he did not abide in this state of holiness but soon fell into sin and God's condemnation. God in eternity, however, has determined to redeem a great multitude out of this state of sin.
With the fall of man and the curse of sin God began to display His glorious plan of redemption. Biblical history is a display of God's redemptive purpose.
2. God raised up the man Abraham that through him a great nation would arise
 - a. Sin would continue to take its venomous toll
Abraham was plagued by sin and yet he held to the promise of God
 - b. Isaac and Jacob were plagued by sin, but God continued His unfulfilling covenantal purpose and He continued to reign as their King.
 - c. Jacob's sons ultimately became 12 tribes. Eventually, they would be sold into the bondage to another king, but God delivered them with a strong arm and the words, "Let My people go!"
The preface to the Ten Commandments describes God's covenantal care of His people:
Exodus 20:1-2 KJV - "And God spake all these words, saying, ² I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."
3. Israel was unfaithful in the wilderness and unfaithful in the Land of Promise. God would raise up judges to rule over them, and yet Israel continued to display their rebellious heart.
Judges 2 describes the ongoing behavior of Israel
Judges 2:11-12 NAU - "Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, ¹² and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from *among* the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger."
4. This is the history of Israel, indeed, the history of man – unending failure, unending sin.
The Book of Judges ends with a statement that also implies a question.
Judges 21:25 NAU - "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - a. Israel had no king. The question is, would a king provide the answer to their lawlessness? Would it be possible for a king to lead them in righteousness and defend them from their enemies?
 - b. The problem with this question is Israel had a King. God was their King and He alone was to reign over them according to His righteous Law. But Israel would not have their glorious King.

- B. Israel demanded an earthly king
1. They wanted a king like the nations surrounding them. They wanted a powerful king to lead them and defend them from their enemies. They voiced their demand to Samuel:
1 Samuel 8:5 NAU - "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations."
 2. In reality, their demand for an earthly king was the rejection of God
1 Samuel 8:7 NAU - "The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them."
 3. Israel wanted a deliverer. They wanted a man of their choosing.
1 Samuel 8:19-20 NAU - "No, but there shall be a king over us, ²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."
 4. God gave them Saul. The Hebrew name for Saul means, "Asked for" or "Asked of Yahweh"
 5. Saul bore all of the characteristics of a great king. There was great hope and expectation among the people regarding their new king.
1 Samuel 10:24 NAU - "Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? Surely there is no one like him among all the people." So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"
 6. God gave Israel and her new king His demand of faithful obedience
1 Samuel 12:13-15 NAU - "Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen, whom you have asked for, and behold, the LORD has set a king over you. ¹⁴ "If you will fear the LORD and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the LORD, then both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God. ¹⁵ "If you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the command of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as *it was* against your fathers."
- C. It wasn't long before their hopes were crushed
1. Saul's reign was a dismal failure but in the midst of failure there was hope
1 Samuel 13:13-14 NAU - "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. ¹⁴ "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."
 2. 1 Samuel provides the account of the reign of Israel's first king and God's rejection of their king, but moving in the background was another, one after God's own heart, one of God's own choosing. It was a display of God's covenant faithfulness.

3. 1 Samuel ends in tragedy – Israel is defeated in battle and their deliverer is killed. Israel is scattered and Saul’s head is cut off and put on display for the celebration of the Philistine victory.
4. Is this not what God warned?
"If you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the command of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, *as it was* against your fathers."
5. Israel must have been perplexed and defeated. Fleeing in fear, all seemed hopeless. **1 Samuel** ends with the victory of the Philistines. The cut off Saul’s head and his weapons are sent throughout the land as “good news.” Then they were placed before Dagon, a sign of Israel’s defeat. Dagon was now victorious over God.
6. But God is a covenant keeping God. His redemptive purpose will not be defeated.

II. 2 Samuel opens with words of hope: "Now it came about after the death of Saul"

A. Could it be that there is still hope?

1. 1 Samuel ends in defeat and all hope is gone. Saul is dead and Israel is scattered.
2. God is not finished. His plan is not thwarted. He is raising up a righteous king and a new kingdom of covenant fidelity.
3. As I stated earlier, 1 Samuel “is about a covenant God who makes covenant promises to a covenant king through whom he will preserve his covenant people (Dale Ralph Davis).”

B. God’s Kingdom promise looks beyond the earthly Davidic kingdom – the shadow would shine brightly in its ultimate fulfillment.

Isaiah 9:6-7 NAU - "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore."

Luke 1:30-33 NAU - "The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

1. All looked hopeless. They had hoped that Saul would be their powerful king but all had failed, but God was not through.

2. A thousand years later there was another one upon whom great hope had been placed. This one too seemed to end in failure and disappointment. **Luke 24:13-21 NAU** - "And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ *One of them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹ "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened."
3. Every one of Israel's kings had failed to usher in the messianic kingdom. Most had led Israel into grievous sin. The sins of king Jeroboam became typical of every king who led Israel further away from God. **1 Kings 16:26 KJV** - "For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities."
4. Was Jesus just another dismal failure?

Conclusion:

1. The disciples on the Road to Emmaus were dejected. They had surely hoped that Jesus was the one. But He was gone, executed. And the third day had arrived. "Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened."
2. But Jesus was no longer in the tomb. He had risen just as He said. God's purposes are unchanging. They are unassailable. Jesus is the promised King and His Kingdom is from everlasting to everlasting.
3. The opening verse of 2 Samuel reminds us that as bad as the death of Saul was, God's purpose had not come to an end. The reign of Saul had come to a tragic end, but the reign of David was only about to begin. **2 Samuel 1:1 NAU** - "Now it came about after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, that David remained two days in Ziklag."
4. It is interesting, after the defeat of the Amalekites David remained in Ziklag for two days. He didn't know it, but Saul had died. For two days the future of Israel was in question; Israel had no king. After the death of Jesus, for two days the future was also uncertain. This was the feeling of the disciples.

- Luke 24:21 NAU** - "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened." But it was never in question with God, not with David, not with Jesus. God's purpose was always being carried out.
5.
 - a. It is interesting, God used this wicked Amalekite to deliver Saul's crown into the hands of David. The new king was about to rise.
 - b. The true King would come forth from David. The New Testament opens: **Matthew 1:1 NAU** - "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:"
 - c. That the Messiah would be the Son of David was well-known. **Matthew 12:23 NAU** - "All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?"
 6. Jesus is the King. He is the Savior who came to save His people and will come to judge the world.
 - a. Upon what do you rest your hope? Are you trusting in the kingdoms of this world? They will all fail. **Daniel 2:44 NAU** - "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."
 - b. Have you recognized your King? Have you bowed before Him?