

“Against God’s Anointed”
1 Samuel 19:1; Psalm 2
(Preached at Trinity, August 20, 2017)

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. Since **Chapter 13** we’ve been witnessing God’s rejection of Saul as king of Israel and anointing of David as king.
1 Samuel 13:13-14 NAU - "Samuel said to Saul, "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."
1 Samuel 15:28 NAU - "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you."
2. As Samuel anointed David the Holy Spirit came upon him mightily. At the same time the Holy Spirit departed from Saul.
1 Samuel 16:13-14 NAU - "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. ¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him."
3. God chose and anointed David as Israel’s king and rejected Saul. It was clearly revealed to Saul. God declared His righteous judgment and excellent purpose. These chapters, however, are a display of Saul pitting his will against God’s will and against God’s anointed.
We read in **Chapter 18** -
1 Samuel 18:7-9 NAU - "The women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." ⁸ Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹ Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on."
4. Saul saw David as the enemy. He failed to see and submit to the sovereign purpose of God.
 - a. We can compare Saul to Eli. When God pronounced His judgment upon the sinfulness of Eli’s family, Eli submitted to God’s sovereign will.
1 Sam. 3:18 NAU - "It is the LORD; let Him do what seems good to Him."
 - b. Saul’s response was to thwart God’s righteous judgment by destroying His anointed.

5. From that time Saul worked craftily to destroy David. In Saul's mind, destroy David and God's plan will be thwarted.
 - A. He sent David to fight the Philistines thinking they would kill David.
1 Samuel 18:17 NAU - "For Saul thought, "My hand shall not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."
 - B. Saul knew no shame. He even used his daughter, Michal, in his effort to bring David to his death.
1 Samuel 18:20-21 NAU - "Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. When they told Saul, the thing was agreeable to him. ²¹ Saul thought, "I will give her to him that she may become a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him."
 - C. Saul asked an impossible dowry of David – 100 foreskins of the Philistines. This would surely result in David's death.
1 Samuel 18:25 NAU - "Thus you shall say to David, 'The king does not desire any dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" Now Saul planned to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines."
6. None of these schemes of course were successful. God continually delivered His anointed one from the hand of the Philistines—and Saul became more and more fearful of David.
7. As we enter **Chapter 19** Saul has come to the end of his subtlety. With all secrecy set aside, Saul openly declares his intent on killing David.
1 Samuel 19:1 NAU - "Now Saul told Jonathan his son and all his servants to put David to death. "
8. God says, "I have rejected Saul and I have chosen David as My king." Saul declares in heart, "No! I will be king! David shall not be God's anointed king."
9. This has been the problem of humanity since the fall of Adam. Sinful men try to pit their wills against the will of God. As our Lord prayed before God His faithful word was, "not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42).
The heart of fallen man is the opposite, "Not Thy will, but mine be done."
This is Saul's heart displayed before God – "Not Thy will but mine be done."
10. History displays this saga of warfare against God.
 - A. In the Garden Adam and Eve rose up against the supreme authority of God. Satan promised they would become as gods.
Genesis 3:5 NAU - "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
 - B. In the days of Noah the entire earth had risen in rebellion – their thoughts were intent on setting their own way against God.
Genesis 6:5 NAU - "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
 - C. In the city of Babel they rebelled against God and in their independence God crushed their rebellion and scattered them
 - D. In the city of Sodom they decided they could set their own standards. God destroyed them.
 - E. God will not allow foolish men to rise up against His rule.
11. This sinful self-will is displayed clearly in **Psalms 2**. Tonight I want us to look at Saul's actions as we overlay them upon the rebellion displayed in **Psalms 2**.

- I. **Psalm 2** displays the universal rebellion of humanity.
- A. It begins with the question of disbelief by the psalmist
 "Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing?"
1. The word for "uproar" points to a conspiracy or plot
 The whole world has risen up in a grand plot to overthrow the rule of God
 2. Why would anyone in their right mind plan an attack against a force that is infinitely more powerful where the chances of prevailing are zero?
 3. In **Verse 2** it is described in terms of the political and national leaders.
 This has certainly been true from the beginning of time and continues today – from one end of the earth to the other. Saul was simply one in a long chain of rulers seeking to cast off the rule of God.
 4. Of course it isn't just the leaders of the earth who have rebelled against God. There is an almost universal denial of the rightful throne of Christ.
 5. **Verse 3** describes the complete effort of man to rid himself of God and His rule. This is so true as we watch our nation today – from politics to business to entertainment – all want absolute freedom from God's control.
- B. Such rebellion is madness
1. Who would imagine such a vain thing? – The word for "vain" describes something that is futile, hopeless, empty, senseless
 2. While they think their course makes sense it is actually madness.
Romans 1:22 - "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,"
 3. This is displayed vividly with King Saul. In his insanity he dared to set his will against the will of God. It was a plan doomed to failure.
Daniel 4:35 NAU - "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'"
 4. The lost man sees the gracious rule of Christ as bondage
Psalm 2:3 NAU - "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!"
 "fetters" and "cords" refer to materials to bind someone – fetters and ropes. They see obedience to God's Law as a bondage – irksome, burdensome.
 - a. The truth is the rule of Christ is a gracious rule to those who know Him.
Matthew 11:29-30 NAS - "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. ³⁰ "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."
 - b. The servants of Christ know Him as a glorious Lord

- C. The greatest display of rebellion against God is the denial of His Anointed
Psalm 2:2 NAU - "Against the LORD and against His Anointed"
1. The nations of the earth have stood up against God's Anointed, against the Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. What we are witnessing with Saul is an attack upon the forerunner of Christ, King David. In **Chapter 16** God commanded Samuel to set apart David as His anointed. Saul would not have God's anointed. Saul's actions are a great demonstration of a man against the LORD and His anointed.
 This is what all humanity does. God says, "Honor and serve My Son. Submit to Him as your Lord. Trust Him as your Savior." Fallen men answer, "No! I will be king. I will not relinquish my throne."
 3. Compare Saul's actions with the righteous honor of David. As long as Saul was king he was God's anointed. After months of fleeing from the deadly pursuit of Saul, David had the opportunity to take Saul's life. David's words should stir our hearts.
1 Samuel 24:6 NAS - "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD's anointed."
 4. The whole world has lifted up their hand against God's Anointed, the Lord Jesus Christ.
Isaiah 53:3 NAS - "He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."
 5. Jesus Christ has universal authority and dominion over all the earth.
Matthew 28:18 NAU - "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
John 5:26-27 NAS - "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; ²⁷ and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man."
 6. God commands to all men is to bow before His Son

II. God's Reaction – **Verses 4-6** – He laughs at man's puny attempts

- A. God's reaction is that of derision and wrath
1. The psalmist describes God's reaction first as laughter – not hilarity but of mockery and contempt
 2. During the days of Noah the entire earth had rebelled against God. You can imagine their mockery as Noah built the ark. At the appointed time God destroyed them all.
 3. God's laughter then turns to wrath – man will be terrified at God's anger
Psalm 2:5 NAU - "Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury"
Hebrews 10:31 NAU - "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
 - a. Many do not believe this
 - b. God is not looked upon with terror. Sin is considered a small thing.

- B. God's plans and purposes are not altered by man's rebellion
Psalm 2:6 NAU - "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."
1. God declared David to be His anointed, His chosen king
1 Samuel 16:1 NAU - "Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons."
 2. Saul's problem is he would not submit himself to the will of God and would not receive and honor His anointed.
 3. Over and over Saul sought to murder David, and over and over his plans were thwarted. God's purposes will stand
 God controls the actions of all men from the greatest to the least
Proverbs 21:1 – "The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.
Proverbs 16:9 – "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."

Conclusion:

1. Those who consistently set themselves against God and His Anointed will find themselves against an invincible force.
 The Psalmist quotes God's words to His Anointed: "Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹ 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware."
2. God serves warning to all.
Psalm 2:10 NAU - "Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth."
 1. In this life there is opportunity for repentance and reconciliation
 2. "Show discernment." KJV - "Be wise" – rebellion against Christ is the height of foolishness. God charges all, "Be wise."
3. God gives clear steps in repentance
 - A. **Verse 11** - "Worship the LORD." The word for "worship" means to work or serve. In fact, it is most often translated "serve" or "work." This is how the KJV & ESV translate it, "Serve the Lord with fear."
 Dethrone yourselves and serve your King."
 - B. Do give homage to Him. This word literally refers to a kiss—the KJV & ESV translate it well, "Kiss the Son." Adore Him. Embrace Him in total allegiance. The kiss is the ultimate expression of love.
 - C. The warning is repeated
Psalm 2:12 NAU - "that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. "
 1. To deny Christ your love is to kindle his wrath. He will execute fierce vengeance.
 2. God will crush all rebellion in His wrath. He will unleash His judgment at any moment.
 3. All unbelievers must heed this warning. All must embrace Christ in brokenness. They must confess their sin and forsake it or they will face the wrath of God.

4. Saul would not bow before God and judgment came quickly upon him.
1 Samuel 31:2-3 NAU - "The Philistines overtook Saul and his sons; and the Philistines killed Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua the sons of Saul. ³ The battle went heavily against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was badly wounded by the archers."
5. Saul stands as a warning before us. Have you embraced Christ?
Or have you taken your place among the heathen in rebellion against the King of kings?
Have you seen how glorious this King is? Have you embraced God's Anointed and given Him your allegiance and your love?