

# 'The Rise of the Kings Series'

## Sermons in the Book of 1 Samuel



### Message 1—'An Introduction to 1 Samuel'

By means of introduction to this wonderful book of the Scriptures, it is clear that it focuses around three major characters, Samuel, Saul, and David. We can see that this book is concerned with a crucial shift in the history of Israel, and as such a new era in the sovereign grand plan of redemption. There are four major themes that we can identify that I want you to see throughout this book (and 2 Samuel):

**1. The Complete Sovereignty of God** - In all the events that take place God was fulfilling His purposes and doing His will. The sovereignty of God is such that even the very wickedness of men is turned on itself and is worked to fulfil the purposes of God. In this book we will see much sin and failure on the part of God's people, but it will remind us that God is on the throne, and even when the people disobey Him and wander from His rule, He is powerful to overrule. He is the great God of heaven and His purposes will be completed. You may be in the midst of a hard situation, yet, there is comfort in knowing that God is in control, that He will remember and preserve His own.

**2. The Importance of God's Righteousness** - The Scriptures affirm, and this book affirms that the Lord God, who is holy and righteous, does all things well. In the very darkest of times, there is always hope with the Lord, and this centres around the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, the Bible also reveals to us the certainty of God's righteousness, and the reality of our rebellion against God. 1 Samuel will make it clear that sin promises so much but pays so little, and the consequences are horrendous. Only the righteousness of God is steadfast and sure.

**3. The Consequences of Sin** - Throughout the two books of Samuel, this is a theme that is reiterated time and again. The Bible tells us that sin has consequences in our lives. It was the circumstance then, it is the same now, and we need to have our sin dealt with. The only way is in the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death. Also, on a national scale, sin has consequences, and I think that this is prevalent in our own present-day post-modern (whatever!) society.

**4. The Establishment of Monarchy** - The significance of this development in Israel's history is far more than just a political development, it is a movement in the grand scheme of redemption. It concerns the rule of God amongst His people, it examines the faith of those who love the Lord and desire to serve Him. Yet, ultimately, the movement to monarchy points the way to the coming of the Messiah, who will be the great King who will reign. As a result Christ is central to 1 Samuel. To only see the narrative as narrative is to miss the events that are immense in their scope and have at their heart the great plan of redemption looking to the person and work of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.



## Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs