

1) INTRO

- Today, as a church, we’re beginning a new sermon series
- Throughout the next 10 weeks we’ll be looking at the life of David
 - This will lead us right into Easter Sunday/Resurrection Sunday...so we’ll be looking at the life of David
 - David’s called a man after God’s own heart
 - David was raised up by God as the King of Israel
 - Even though he was a simple shepherd
 - He as hand-picked by God to lead his people as king
- So, as we walk through this sermon series together, we’ll be focusing on two major aspects throughout
 - Firstly, we’ll look at what it means to have have a heart for God
 - We’ll see how the work of the HS in our lives enables us to have hearts that love God and live for God
 - Which enables us to have attitudes and actions that honor and glorify God
 - Secondly, we’ll be looking at qualities of leadership that show up
 - i.e. we’ll be looking at the Davidic Covenant – God’s raising up a ruler/his anointed king/King David to his rightful place
 - And, this is ultimately to point our attention to Christ...to King Jesus who’s reign and rule’s over and who’s reign and rule will never come to an end
 - So we’ll see how God put his king, David, on the throne to show us what his own kingship is like
- And, to accomplish all these purposes, we’ve selected 10 major events in God’s unfolding plan in the life of David to help us in understanding this...to help us understand God’s plan of kingship
- So, throughout the next 10 weeks, we’ll be walking through portions of 1 & 2 Samuel
 - And, 1 & 2 Samuel cover the span of 135 years...in the nation of Israel

2) BACKGROUND (1:1-20)

- And, as we begin by looking at 1 Samuel today, we come finding that the backdrop of our story today shows that Israel’s at a low point spiritually
 - We’ll see today that the priesthood was corrupt
 - Also, the ark of the covenant wasn’t at the tabernacle
 - Idolatry was practiced
 - And, the judges were dishonest
- So, spiritually, Israel’s not in a good place as we come to 1 Samuel
- So far in the storyline of the Bible, Israel’s been a loosely knit group of tribes
 - They were ruled under judges for different time periods
 - And, now the nation of Israel – this group of loosely knit tribes – they’re gonna move into a monarchy in 1 & 2 Samuel
 - They’re gonna leave behind the on and off rule of judges and self-rule that hasn’t worked for them in the past
 - They’re gonna move into the direction of having a king who’s their leader and their guide
 - And, it’s all with the purpose of pointing to King Jesus
- And, so we begin with our series on the life of David by looking at the birth and call of Samuel

- And, we begin by looking at the birth and call of Samuel b/c they show us God's role in raising up Samuel for his important role
 - "The prophet Samuel is the most important piece to this puzzle, b/c he is the kingmaker."
 - Samuel's used by God to bring the God-ordained monarchy/kingship to Israel
- So, to begin our sermon series, we'll look at Samuel, the kingmaker, the one who God uses for his purpose to anoint David as King of Israel
- And, Samuel's beginnings begin with all of us...with his parents
- Verses 1-20 of chapter 1 show us that Elkanah was married to Peninnah and Hannah
 - Now, Peninnah had children, but Hannah didn't have any children
 - 1 Chronicles 6 shows us that Elkanah was from the tribe of Levi and our text shows us that he faithfully brought his family to the temple each year "to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of Hosts at Shiloh" (1:3)
 - We see this phrase "Lord of Hosts" in v3 here
 - This is the first time this phrase is used in the OT
 - This is significant b/c this title expresses the Lord's sovereignty over all earthly and heavenly powers
 - And, this is important to point out b/c we'll see throughout this text the sovereign plan and work of God
 - As "the Lord of Hosts" God has absolute power and authority over all things and that his plans & purposes will be accomplished
 - And, we'll see this in our passage today and this gives us much reason to rejoice in and worship God
- And, the Lord of Hosts is who Hannah prays to and makes a vow/promise to in verse 11
 - She prays to the sovereign Lord over all/she pleads with the Lord of Hosts that he gives her a son
 - And, she vows that she'll give him to God in line with the Nazirite vow that no razor should touch his head
 - Now, the Nazirite vow (explained in Num 6) includes no grapes (i.e. wine), not cutting hair, and avoiding contact w/ dead bodies
 - This was a special type of vow that showed voluntary devotion to God – especially separation from anything unclean/worldly and it showed a life given over to God
 - And, it was usually done for a period of time
 - But, what's interesting about Hannah's vow is that she devotes her son "to the Lord all the days of his life" (v11)
- Eli, the priest, notices Hannah in intense prayer before the Lord
 - But, what's telling of the spiritual low point Israel's in is that he doesn't think she's praying
 - Eli, the priest, thinks she's drunk b/c her lips are moving but he doesn't hear her voice
 - He's so unfamiliar w/ fervency in prayer that he doesn't notice it when it's happening right before his eyes
 - But, as Hannah explains that she's in fervent prayer to the Lord, Eli responds that God WILL grant her request
 - And, so she's no longer sad
 - She's resting in the Lord of Hosts
- Even in this spiritual darkness of the days they were living in, our sovereign God hears Hannah's prayer and he answers her prayer
 - We see in v20 that Hannah's pregnant and gives birth to a son and she names him Samuel

- Samuel...the linguistic etymology means “heard of God” or “asked of God”
- God “heard” Hannah’s prayer...what she asked

3) HANNAH WORSHIPS (1:21-2:11)

- And, so Hannah worships in 1:21-2:11
- She first acts in worship by giving Samuel to the Lord
 - She waits until he’s weaned and then she brings sacrifices to the Lord and offers them to God in the temple
 - And, then she gives her young child to the Lord telling Eli that God granted her request and she’s back now offering her son to the Lord
 - In a sense, we saw this last week in our child dedications
 - As believing parents who’re walking in step w/ the HS, we’ll have the same heart attitude with all our children
 - We’ll desire that each one of our children belong to the Lord
 - We’ll do anything and everything we can in our power to point our children to Jesus so that they’ll know that Jesus forgives them of their sin when they believe in him
 - We know we can’t save them
 - Only God can do that work
 - But, we can faithfully invest in teaching the trust of life and salvation in Jesus
 - We can consistently pray for them and over them that God protect them from their sin and from the enemy and we’ll pray that they’ll walk in step w/ God by the power of the HS
 - As parents who love Christ and are surrendered to the HS, our hearts will desire this for our children...and so, we’ll dedicate them to the Lord...we’ll desire that they’ll belong to God forever
 - As grandparents we’ll desire this for our grandchildren
 - As aunts and uncles we’ll desire the same
 - As spiritual family, we’ll desire that for each one of the children in our church
 - That Jesus would be their Lord and Savior so that they’ll be his first and foremost and for always
 - We too will give them to the Lord...just as Hannah did
 - And so, Eli receives Samuel in the temple
- Hannah first acts in worship
- Then Hannah responds in worshipful prayer to God
- Her prayer of worship’s filled with many exclamations of the greatness and power and majesty and authority of God
 - Her jubilant song of thanksgiving includes themes of sovereignty, grace, and deliverance
 - Just like we saw Mary do in December, Hannah responds in worshiping God who’s given her a child
 - And, these words should cause us to worship God as well
 - Let’s look at 1 Samuel 2:1-10
 - What great words of worship to God
 - Hannah was ready to fall but God gave her strength
 - She was barren but God made her fruitful
 - She was poor but God made her rich

- We have a good God, don't we?
 - He's the God who gives salvation in Christ
 - He's perfect in all his ways
 - He's holy and there's no one like him
 - He's the one who determines our steps
- Brothers and sisters, no matter what you're walking through...no matter what you're facing...this is YOUR God!
 - Even if...
 - You're facing job uncertainties
 - Your health seems to be failing
 - Your relationships seem fractured or broken
 - You feel singled out at school
 - The stresses and pressures of motherhood seem overwhelming
 - You feel pinched and you're not sure how to pay your bills
 - You feel inadequate as a husband or a father
 - The weight of your own sin seems to much to bear
 - No matter what...God is God!
 - And he sovereignly reigns and rules over all things!
 - God always has a plan and he's always at work in carrying it out
 - Even in the midst of all the difficulties we face, God's at work
 - The difficulties don't make him rethink things and go to a plan B
 - No matter what...Jesus is King over all
 - He's ultimately the anointed one...or "the Messiah" as the original Hebrew brings out in v10
- In v10, Hannah makes a point that the Lord will rule the whole earth and that he'll give strength to his king and he'll exalt the power of his anointed
 - The king's seen here as God's anointed
 - We see here that the kings of Israel, especially David, pointed ahead to God's ultimate anointed/"Messiah" king Jesus
 - So, this verse already points to God's plan to raise up David as the king of Israel...the one who'll rule the nation of Israel
 - And, ultimately this verse points to King Jesus, the ruler of all the nations of the earth

4) SAMUEL'S SURROUNDINGS (2:12-36)

- As we continue on in the narrative of our passage this morning, we see our next portion of Scripture – 2:12-36 – showing how corrupt Israel is at this time
 - This was the time when God promises to raise up a king for his people
 - And, we see here that holy God doesn't tolerate sin
 - Sin's a serious offense to sovereign God
- Eli's sons, in particular, are shown to be worthless men (2:12)
 - They blatantly sinned against the Lord in temple worship
 - Eli's sons didn't follow the proper sacrifice rituals that priests were required to follow
 - Instead, they did their own thing and didn't show reverence to God and to the office God appointed them to

- Further, Eli's sons were sexually immoral men (v22)
 - They sinfully engaged in sexual relationships with the women who were serving at the tabernacle
 - They clearly had no regard to the offensiveness of sin before holy God...who they were supposed to be serving
 - They weren't at all concerned with honoring God
- And, b/c of the sin of Eli's sons God cuts off Eli and his sons...he rejects them
 - And, ultimately in v35 God promises that he'll raise up a faithful priest who'll faithfully serving him in accordance with his heart and mind
- So, even in the midst of God dealing w/ the seriousness and offensiveness of sin, God promises to raise up a priest – a faithful representative/mediator between sinful people and holy God
 - We see this happen throughout chapter 2 actually...even in the midst of God's condemnation of Eli's family
 - We see notes about Samuel scattered throughout
 - We see that he's "ministering to the Lord" a few times...i.e. that he's carrying out priestly duties
 - We also see that he's growing in maturity and in favor with the Lord
 - In the midst of this spiritually low point in the history of Israel – and especially in the corrupt spiritual leaders – God's working
 - God's always at work in carrying out his sovereign plan
 - So, we can rest in God and believe in his perfect plan he's carrying out...even as we feel all the effects of sin in life
 - He's carrying out his plan of delivering us from the enemy and from our own sin
 - He sent King Jesus – his anointed one – to give us hope/certainty that sin and its effects now won't hold us captive
 - Those bonds are broken by the power of Christ's death and resurrection
 - Brothers and sisters, lets believe in our sovereign God's plan over all things...including sin and its effects
 - He's faithful to his promise of raising up his anointed one – JC – to save his people
 - And, if you're here and you're not yet placing your faith and trust in Christ for your salvation, I pray that the HS would work in you to hear the message of life in Christ and that you'd surrender to Christ
 - Jesus – the anointed forever king – went to the cross to die and wash your sin away so that you can live with God forever and ever
 - This was always God's plan...to point to and to ultimately raise up Jesus his anointed forever king
 - And, we see in our text God how God's preparing his people to receive receive a king
 - God's laying the groundwork for the people of Israel – in the midst of a dark time spiritually – to receive their king, King David, who ultimately points to King Jesus

5) GOD CALLS SAMUEL (3:1-26)

- And, as part of God's plan in this, God raises up Samuel as a prophet...one who speaks on behalf of God to his people
 - It's here where God calls Samuel
 - And, God calls Samuel in a time when God seemed to be pretty silent...3:1
- And, we see here that God calls Samuel and that Samuel thinks his mentor Eli's calling him
 - So, he jumps out of bed to run to Eli who says that he didn't call him
 - So, Samuel goes back to bed and the same thing happens two more times
 - And on the 3rd time, Eli tells Samuel that it must be the Lord who's calling him
 - So, the 4th time, Samuel acknowledges that it's the Lord calling him and he listens to the word of the Lord
- And, God's words to Samuel are that he'll be a prophet to the Lord and that Eli's family's out
 - God makes it clear that just as he said in the previous chapter, he's gonna punish Eli and his family b/c his sons were blaspheming God and b/c Eli didn't do anything to stop them...3:10-14
- So, the next morning Eli wants to know – naturally – what the Lord had to say
 - So, Samuel tells him...3:18
 - What's interesting in this verse here's that Eli confesses God's right to rule
 - Even in facing rejection from God, Eli confesses that God has every right to do what he wants whenever he wants to whomever he wants
 - Even Eli, a priest whose household's been openly and defiantly acting wickedly/sinfully toward that Lord...he's even able to confess that God has every right to do whatever he wants
 - Isn't this humbling?
- In my studying, I read that the fact that Samuel kept mistaking the voice of the Lord for Eli's shows that he didn't have any expectations that God would raise him up to be a priest

6) CONCLUSION

- God, in his sovereignty, raised up Samuel to his position of prophet, priest, and judge
 - God sovereignly worked in the midst of dark circumstances
 - In a spiritually low point in the nation of Israel, God was still sovereignly working out his plan
 - He's beginning to work out his plan here in 1 Samuel of raising up King David to rule his people
 - But, ultimately God's working out his plan of bringing forth his son Jesus who came from the line of King David
 - From the lineage of King David, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord came into the world
 - And, Jesus came into a spiritually dark world in a time when the word of the Lord was also rare
 - For 400 hundred years nothing had been heard from God...no prophetic words from God are written down between the end of the OT and the beginning of the NT
 - But, in the midst of that silence, Jesus came into the world
 - And, he came with a single mission
 - He willingly came to earth to fulfill the sovereign plan of God
 - And, that plan was that he lovingly poured out his sovereign grace into our lives so that we'd be given the life we don't deserve

- When trust in Jesus and in his death on the cross as payment for our sin before God, we're given eternal life that we don't deserve
- We're given salvation
- We're given a clean slate before God
- We're given HS who helps us to now walk with God and to live in obedience to God
- We're given new hearts that wanna shine for Christ
- We're given the joy of being a part of what God's doing in drawing others to himself then too
- Brothers and sisters, who're changed by Christ, we have the privilege of being used by God for his plans and purposes of drawing others to himself
 - We have a purpose!
 - Life has meaning for us!
 - We get to live out the plans of God – the only one who's sovereign over everything
- Friends, if you don't yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord, please join us in living lives like this
 - Please surrender your lives to Christ so your life has purpose
 - Please trust in Christ's payment of sin so that your life now has meaning

2017-02-05

Pastor Eric Botzet

Arrowsmith Baptist Church