

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for October 15, 2023

Sermon Notes

The Adversaries of the Lord Shall be Broken...Thus Saul Died

*Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer,
and all his men, on the same day together. (1 Samuel 31:6)*

A literary tragedy is defined as a story that takes place around a noble and powerful figure such as a king, who faces the loss of his position, his loved ones, and his life due to his own flaws and failings. This archetype is often referred to as the "tragic hero." Is that what we see in 1 Samuel 31? Is Saul a "hero" whose character flaws bring about his unfortunate undoing? Or is this chapter a fulfillment of God's sure word – another segment of his redemptive story and his sovereign plans to raise up his eternal anointed King?

While we should feel some level of sorrow and/or sympathy over what transpires in this chapter, we should not see it as an account of God being absent or silent as a tragedy unfolds. In a parallel account of Saul's death, we read these words: *So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the LORD. Therefore the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse. (1 Chronicles 10:13–14)*

At the beginning of 1 Samuel, we heard Hannah pray these prophetic words: *Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. (1 Samuel 2:3-4, 6-7)*

This final chapter in 1 Samuel illustrates how God brings low and how he exalts, how he is faithful to his word of judgment and his promise of salvation.

The continuing contrast

A son faithful to the end

A king self-centered to the end

A people grateful to the end

Applications:

The contrast between two kingdoms and two ways to live continues – who is your King?

God is sovereign over life and death - trust and obey him in both.

God is faithful to his promise of judgment and his promise of salvation – we can rest in this.

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom...*"

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor

Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor

Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
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Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
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OCTOBER

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

20 Person @ W. Alamance @ 7pm

20 & 21 AHG Campout @ Godwin's

20 & 21 Trail Life @ NC Fall Junction

27 Person vs. Williams @ 7pm

"SENIOR NIGHT"

29 Fall Family Festival 5:30pm-7pm

NOVEMBER

4 Trail Life Hiking @ Eno

4 AHG OCC Packing Party

5 Operation Christmas Shoeboxes DUE

6-7 NC Baptists State Convention - GSO