

GOD'S RULE AND GOD'S REIGN

(10/01/2023; Life Group; 1 Samuel 4:1-7:17; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: God rules and reigns over His people as their ultimate divine King, but He mediates that authority through a promised Son, an appointed priest, a confirmed prophet, and an anointed Judge, who intercedes for the people, delivers them from their enemies, and provides everlasting peace!

I. The Rejection of God – Read 1 Samuel 4:1-22

- A. Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11. How do both the Philistines and Israelites demonstrate a proper understanding of God's rule and reign over all things? How does their attempts to manipulate God demonstrate their foolish conclusions about who the God of the Bible is?
- B. Read 1 Samuel 4:12-18. What observations do you make? How is Eli and Eli's sons demise a fulfillment of the promises in Genesis 3:15, 1 Samuel 2:6-10, and 1 Samuel 2:33-35?
- C. 1 Samuel 4 teaches us that God cannot be controlled or manipulated. What do you think it looks like to submit to the God of the Bible? What would indicate that you are more interested in using God as a lucky charm for gain rather than pursuing God with a repentant heart?

II. The Supremacy of God – Read 1 Samuel 5:1-7:2

- A. Read 1 Samuel 5:1-5. Who is Dagon? What observation do you make about Dagon and the idol's demise? What is the significance of the death blow to the Philistine's god?
- B. How does 1 Samuel 5:1-6:12 demonstrate the supremacy and power of God? What is your reaction to the severity of God's hand upon His enemies in chapters 5 and 6?
- C. Read 1 Samuel 6:19-7:1. How would you summarize the events in this passage? Why did God strike down the seventy men? Why do these men deserve the judgment they receive?
- D. What does it look like to respond rightly to the God of the Bible rather than to reject the God of the Bible like the Philistines and the seventy men from Kiriath-Jearim?

III. The Mercy of God – Read 1 Samuel 7:3-17

- A. Read 1 Samuel 7:3-17. In what specific ways is Samuel depicted as an anointed judge who serves as God's prophet, priest, and mediator to God's people?
- B. How does Samuel point us forward to our great mediator, the Lord Jesus? What are the similarities and differences between Samuel and Jesus' meditation between God and man?
- C. Read Hebrews 7:25 and 10:11. What do these passages teach us about Jesus' role as mediator? How should Christ's work as our mediator transform how we view our sin, our relationship with God, and the promised enjoyment of peace with God forever?