

**Introduction:** Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical Church year. For the last century it has been designated as Christ the King Sunday. Because of the rise of despotic and fascist rulers in the aftermath of World War I, the Church wanted to focus the attention of everyone on Jesus Christ as the true King of kings. His followers must always remind themselves that when He returns at the end of the Church age, He will usher in His perfect Kingdom in the new heavens and earth! \*\*\* Next week we will start the new liturgical Church year with four weeks of Advent. In this time we remember with gratitude that all who are in King Jesus have an abundance of hope, peace, joy and love. This is because of all He did in His first advent, or coming, as a true human being and also fully God. It is a time of reflection, repentance and re-commitment that as His representatives, His people are to introduce all people to Him so they know His strong, life-giving, life changing LOVE. Then, they will want to surrender to Him in obedient faith in order to enjoy His LOVE, now and forever. This is because they join His worldwide Church through all ages in actively waiting for His second advent, or coming! \*\*\* Today's story and psalm present David as a human king who was protected by God from the evil designs of a deposed king. Because of God's grace to a flawed man who trusted God, people recognized David as a man they wanted to follow. \*\*\* David proclaimed that because of his total trust in his covenant God, Yahweh, he would not fear any man. Also, by remaining in Yahweh's presence he would have salvation and praise his God. \*\*\* Let's look deeper into our texts to see how we can trust God and the King of kings He sent to us.

**I. Saul plans against David using his daughters so the Philistines may kill him; when David does better than Saul expected, Saul fears him more. (1 Samuel 18:17-30)**

- A. Saul schemes to use his daughters as an incentive for David to fight the Philistines and die at their hands. (*Verses 17-21*)
1. Then Saul said to David: Behold! My older daughter, Merab; I will give her to thee as (thy) wife; only thou must be a man of valor and thou must fight the battles of Yahweh; Saul said (to himself): My hand will not be against him, it will be against him the hand of the Philistines. (*Verse 17*)  
**Saul's first plan:** This shows the full extent of how twisted Saul's heart and mind was towards David. Rather than accepting God's will, he seeks to exploit David's desires for women with his oldest daughter. Then, he appeals to David's prowess as a man of war. Finally, he insincerely invokes Israel's covenant God, Yahweh. This is because he failed to pin David to the wall with his spear (verses 10-12). Now he is hoping that a nation opposed to Israel's God will do his 'dirty work' for him.
  2. Then David said to Saul: Who (am) I, and who (are) my brothers and my father's family in Israel, that I will be son-in-law to the king; then in the time when Merab (was) to be given to David, she was given to Adriel, the Mehalothite to be (his) wife. (*Verses 18-19*)  
**David's modesty:** Saul is still nominally the king, and David still considers himself to be a shepherd-soldier, so he modestly declines Saul's offer. So, Saul finds her another husband and moves on.
  3. Mical ('who is like God'), Saul's daughter, loved David; when they told Saul, the thing pleased him; Saul said (to himself): I will give her to him and she will be a snare to him; and the hand of the Philistines will be against him; then Saul said to David: with the second (daughter) thou will make thyself my son-in-law today. (*Verses 20-21*)  
**Saul's other daughter:** Because his second daughter is in love with David, Saul now tries a variation of his evil plan to kill David by the Philistines.
- B. When David declines, Saul requests David kill one hundred Philistines for his younger daughter; when he kills two hundred, Saul is more afraid of David, who carries himself well. (*Verses 22-30*)
1. Then Saul commanded his servants: All of you must speak to David secretly, these words in his ears: Behold! The king delights in thee; and all his servants love thee; and now, thou will make thyself my son-in-law. (*Verse 22*)  
**Saul to servants:** Saul sends his servants to privately say to David that the king is delighted in him and still wants him to join his family by marrying his daughter.
  2. When Saul's servants spoke these words in David's ear, David said: Is (this) a trivial thing in all your eyes to become son-in-law to the king? I (am) being poor and lightly esteemed. (*Verse 23*)  
**David still modest:** David continues to be modest. He is indeed poor in material things, and has not let the military victories done by God through him make him proud – as it did to Saul.
  3. Then Saul's servants told him: David spoke this word; then Saul said: this, all of you must speak to David: The king desires no dowry except one hundred foreskins of the Philistines to be avenged of the king's enemies; Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. (*Verses 24-25*)  
**Saul executes plan:** Now Saul requires David to kill one hundred Philistine men and bring physical proof. It is hard to imagine an uncircumcised man letting his circumcised enemy take his foreskin without fighting him to the death. In Saul's mind, David is as good as dead!
  4. When his servants told David these words, the thing pleased David to be made the king's son-in-law; before the days (time set) were full, David rose and went with his men and killed two hundred Philistine men; then David brought their foreskins, and they (gave in) full to the king to make him son-in-law to the king; then Saul gave him Mical, his daughter, the (to be his) wife. (*Verses 26-27*)  
**David produces double:** With the additional help of his loyal men (2 Samuel 23), David gave Saul twice the dowry he requested. In turn, Mical became his wife.
  5. Then Saul saw, and he knew that Yahweh was with David; and, Mical, Saul's daughter, loved him. (*Verse 28*)  
**Yahweh with David:** The covenant God broke through Saul's demonically confused, murderous mind (1 Samuel 16:14-23) so he knew that Yahweh, who had left him, was fully with David. He has now seen two of his plans to do great evil to David thwarted because Yahweh delivered His chosen king.

*Yahweh delivers His chosen from the plans of evil rulers*

6. And Saul was made still more afraid before David; and it became, Saul being David's enemy every day. (*Verse 29*)  
**Saul more afraid:** Saul is rightly, increasingly afraid of David! But, he continues as David's enemy, daily seeking to kill him for more than ten years, until Saul died and David became king at age thirty.
7. Then the princes of the Philistines came out (against Israel), and as often as they came out, David acted more wisely than all the servants of Saul, then his name was highly esteemed. (*Verse 30*)  
**David received as king:** Because Yahweh was with David, he always acted wisely and Yahweh delivered Israel through him. The people of Israel esteemed him for being what a king should be.

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**Prototype:** David's behavior as an ideal human king makes him a prototype of his descendant who Nathan prophesied would be the King of an eternal Kingdom (2 Samuel 7:4-13). We now know that this eternal King is Jesus the Christ (Messiah in Hebrew) the anointed by God King. This descendant of David is the eternal King of kings we celebrate on this Sunday!

**II. Because Yahweh is David's light and refuge, he fears no one; above all, he desires Yahweh's presence so he will be saved and praise Yahweh. (*Psalm 27:1-6*)**

- A. Because Yahweh is David's light, salvation and refuge, he says no men will make him afraid because he trusts Yahweh. (*Verses 1-3*)
  1. { A Psalm, To David } Yahweh (is) my light and my salvation / of whom will I fear? // Yahweh (is) the refuge of my life / of whom will I dread? (*Verse 1*)  
**No fear of men:** Because David knows Yahweh is his light, salvation and refuge, he sees no reason to fear or dread any man!
  2. When come upon me those doing evil to devour my flesh / my oppressors and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. (*Verse 2*)  
**Saul:** It would seem these inspired words of David describe the decade of his life when Saul was doing all he could to consume David's flesh (life). We will see in the months ahead that what started out as hidden and secret plans to destroy David will come out in the open (Luke 12:2-3). And, every time, Yahweh will deliver David from Saul's evil intent, until Saul falls in battle (1 Samuel 31).

***Yahweh delivers His chosen from the plans of evil rulers***

3. If will encamp against me an encampment (of men) / my heart will not be afraid // if will rise up war upon me / in this, I (am) trusting. (*Verse 3*)  
**Pledges trust:** David says that even if an army comes against him in war, he will continue to trust in his covenant God, Yahweh, whom he has already declared to be his light, salvation and refuge!
- B. David desires one thing: to always dwell in Yahweh's presence; he knows Yahweh is his salvation and praises Him for this. (*Verses 4-6*)
  1. One (thing) I asked of Yahweh, that I will seek / (for) me to dwell in Yahweh's house all the days of my life // to (intensely) see the pleasantness of Yahweh / and to inquire in His Temple. (*Verse 4*)  
**Dwell in presence:** More than anything else, David seeks to live his life in close communion with Yahweh, always in His presence! He wants to delight in the pleasantness of His God; and, also to ask Him questions in the place designated for His presence on earth.
  2. Because He will hide me in His booth (shelter) / in the day of evil, he will hide me in the secret place of His tent / on a rock, He will lift me high // and now He will lift up my head above my enemies round about me ... (*Verses 5-6a*)  
**Shelter:** Yahweh will hide David (and His people) from evil enemies in His secret shelter or tent. The word for shelter-booth is the singular root for the plural booths (or tents) that all Israel made to live in during the week of the seventh (and last) Feast in the fall (Leviticus 23:39-43).  
**Lifted to victory:** Furthermore, David (and all) who dwell in the presence of Yahweh, worshipping Him in fear because of His holy awesomeness, will be lifted up over their enemies; therefore, they will fear no one!

***Those dwelling in Yahweh's presence fear no one***

3. ... and I will offer in His tent sacrifices of joyful shouts / and I will sing and I will play an instrument to Yahweh. (*Verses 6bc*)  
**Praise:** The bottom line for those trusting in Yahweh because He rescued (saved) them is to praise Him so He hears music from their mouths and from the instruments in their hands expressing the joy they have in Him because of all He IS, and all He has done for them, including salvation.

**Application:** We must respond to David's exhortation commanding us to always dwell in God's Presence so we will not fear men, and we will be given His salvation through total trust in the Lord, equal to David's trust as a human prototype of Christ, the King of kings.

**Conclusion:** Saul plans against David using his daughters so the Philistines might kill him. When David does better than Saul expected, Saul fears him all the more. Because Yahweh is David's light and refuge, he fears no one. Above all, he desires Yahweh's presence so he will be given salvation, and praise Yahweh.

***Yahweh delivers His chosen from the plans of evil rulers***