

## Here I Am

Authority

Pastor Craig Sweeney | August 17, 2025

**Thread:** God is writing an epic story.

*“Now Samuel died, and all Israel gathered for his funeral. They buried him at his house in Ramah.” I Samuel 15:1 NLT*

*“And here is a present that I, your servant, have brought to you and your young men. Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The LORD will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the LORD’s battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life. Even when you are chased by those who seek to kill you, your life is safe in the care of the LORD your God, secure in his treasure pouch! But the lives of your enemies will disappear like stones shot from a sling! When the LORD has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel, don’t let this be a blemish on your record...”*

**I Samuel 25:27 - 31 NLT**

**David listens to Abigail’s appeal and thanks her for her wise counsel.**

**Nabal forfeits his life working against God’s BIG picture.**

*“David slipped over to Saul’s camp one night to look around. Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of his army, were sleeping inside a ring formed by the slumbering warriors...So David and Abishai went right into Saul’s camp and found him asleep, with his spear stuck in the ground beside his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying asleep around him. ‘God has surely handed your enemy over to you this time!’ Abishai whispered to David. ‘Let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won’t need to strike twice!’ ‘No!’ David said. ‘Don’t kill him. For who can remain innocent after attacking the LORD’s anointed one? Surely the LORD will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or in battle. The LORD forbid that I should kill the one he has anointed! But take his spear and that jug of water beside his head, and then let’s get out of here!’ So David took the spear and jug of water that were near Saul’s head. Then he and Abishai got away without anyone seeing them or even waking up, because the LORD had put Saul’s men into a deep sleep. David climbed the hill opposite the camp until he was at a safe distance. ‘...Look around! Where are the king’s spear and the jug of water that were beside his head?’ Saul recognized David’s voice and called out, ‘Is that you, my son David?’*

*“And David replied, ‘Yes, my lord the king. Why are you chasing me? What have I done? What is my crime? But now let my lord the king listen to his servant...Must I die on foreign soil, far from the presence of the LORD? Why has the king of Israel come out to search for a single flea? Why does he hunt me down like a partridge on the mountains?’ Then Saul confessed, ‘I have sinned. Come back home, my son, and I will no longer try to harm you, for you valued my life today. I have been a fool and very, very wrong.’ ‘Here is your spear, O king,’ David replied. ‘Let one of your young men come over and get it. The LORD gives his own reward for doing good and for being loyal, and I refused to kill you even when the LORD placed you in my power, for you are the LORD’s anointed one. Now may the LORD value my life, even as I have valued yours today. May he rescue me from all my troubles.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Blessings on you, my son David. You will do many heroic deeds, and you will surely succeed.’ Then David went away, and Saul returned home.”*

**I Samuel 26:5, 7 – 13, 16 – 19a, 20 – 25 NLT**

**Recognizing authority is crucial for navigating life.**

**2 ways to look at authority for today**

1. BIG picture
2. Snapshots

**God has given us freewill within His BIG picture.**

**David knew the BIG picture.**

**David knew the BIG picture so he could navigate the snapshots.**

**Challenge:**

-Can you say, “I believe God is the sovereign authority?”

-Can you say, “I trust God’s sovereign authority?”

-Seeing the big picture more clearly, how can I better navigate the snapshots of my life?

*For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit [Dougbramptonbooks.com/resources](http://Dougbramptonbooks.com/resources)*