

## Responsibility or Tyranny

Deuteronomy 17:14 *When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; 15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. 16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. 18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.*

Deuteronomy 17 concerns what kind of law is to rule God's people, God's law or oppressive, humanistic pragmatic law.

In preparation for his departure, Moses is establishing a proper civil law-order for Israel. With the sacrifice, he establishes that **the Lord, he is God**. Moses moves on to define just and righteous laws based upon **the proper worship of the Lord God**. The people were to be ruled by the Word of God, as spoken from the tabernacle where God spoke through the Urim and Thummin of the high priest.

**Numbers 27:21** *And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.*

**Judges 1:1** *Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?*

Vv. 14-20. Under the Judges, God had delivered his people from the hand of their enemies, and they dwelled safely (1 Sam 12:11). But when they saw the king of the Ammonites taking the responsibility, and telling his people what to do, they demanded such a king. They wanted a king who would relieve them of their responsibility for making decisions. They wanted a king to rule, telling them what to do instead of having the Lord rule over them, telling them what to do.

**The first mark of apostasy or rebellion against God and for tyrannical, oppressive rule by the gods of this world is desiring someone else to take the responsibility for those things for which we should be responsible.**

Moses made preparation for the demand for a king to rule according to his, the king's word. We read about the people's demand in Samuel's warning, 1 Samuel 8.

**Vv. 18-20, whose law will prevail in men and society?** Man's pragmatic law which leads to terrible bondage to an all-powerful State claiming to be and acting as God on earth, or God's Word which results in freedom? Samuel laid that choice before them, and His people chose an all-powerful State to rule over them. Godly national rule must start with Godly self-rule and personal responsibility.

We have a choice.

