

Israel Rejects God and Demands A King

I Samuel 8:1-22

Topic: the role of government; intro to kingdom theology, conforming to the world

Introduction:

- We should be reminded that the personal history of Samuel was to serve as a link (last judge, first prophet) to connect DAVID with the Patriarchs, just as the later history connects David himself with our Lord JESUS CHRIST.
- This is a key movement, as in an orchestra's symphony, in which we see the materializing of a kingdom
- The echoes of a Kingdom reverberate throughout the OT and into the NT and ring until the end of human history. It is evident that the Bible as a narrative is moving towards God's desire for a perfect rulership and kingdom- I Cor. 15:24-25, "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."
- Beginning of theocratic kingdom- Ex 19:5-6. See Luke 1:31-33
- Some of the main goals of the kingdom are to restore God's people Israel, and to restore Divine authority in the earth. We do not follow covenant theology which negates these promises given to Israel and replaces her with the church.
- There is a reality that the whole universe already is God's kingdom. But, we are not living under His will for an earthly kingdom just yet- have you seen the news lately? Satan is still the god of this world. (rebuke to covenant theologians).
- Israel was a Theocracy- system of government in which God rules (often through a prophet, priest, or king)
- We live in a Democratic Republic- citizens rule via elected representatives

I. **ISRAEL'S DEMAND**- v. 1-9

a. Samuel's wicked sons- v. 1-5

- i. We spent time looking at Eli's evil sons, and Samuel as a young man grew up seeing this danger firsthand

- ii. Yet even Samuel seems to have failed as a father. He was a great judge, and prophet, he was a great man of God, but did not win his children.
 - iii. V. 3-Their wicked sins are described, but the bible gives no explanation why his sons became wicked. Sometimes there is no explanation for why children do not follow in the godly paths of their parents
- b. Israel clamors for a king- v. 5, 19-20
- i. The Judges did not make a “government.” They met a specific need in a time of crisis. Kings establish a standing government with a bureaucracy, which can be both a blessing and a curse to any people.
 - ii. God’s prediction/provision for a king: Deuteronomy 17:14-15
 - iii. The sin was in the desire to be like the other nations- v. 5, 20
 - iv. God’s people are to be set apart, and distinct! Romans 12:2, I Peter 2:9
 - v. Illustr- kids wanting to fit in, “How come so and so gets to do this?”
 - vi. This was a great offense to God- “You are my people, and I am your God”
 - vii. V. 7- This was a rejection of God
 - 1. In many ways this was a matter of timing. God knew Israel would have a king but He wanted to give the king in His timing. Because Israel demanded a king for carnal reasons, God will give them a carnal king. Israel will get what they want!
 - 2. God had a purpose in not giving Israel a king up to that point. It was because He did not want them to put an ungodly trust in the king instead of the Lord.

II. **SAMUEL’S WARNING-** v. 10-18

- a. Samuel tells it to them straight about what comes with the territory in having a king
- i. Israel thought their problems would be solved with a king. They had to consider the new problems a king would bring!
 - ii. “He will take...” sons as soldiers, daughters as cooks and maids, land and animals for his own.
 - 1. This is a great lesson on the role of human government: To protect its constituents, and preserve order
 - 2. We must be careful of a government that wants to interfere too much in the lives of its constituents

3. I believe it is wise to have a limited government- drain the swamp as President Trump would say!
 4. Illustr- Mayor Diblasio openly called for socialistic control- read article
 5. We do not live in a theocracy, but I believe we should take advantage of the amazing system of government God has blessed us with here in America. We should use our vote to promote morality, and a conducive environment for the gospel!
- b. V. 18- God promised this would bring suffering
- III. **GOD AGREES TO A KING- v. 19-22**
- a. Israel demands a king despite God's warning- v. 19-20
 - b. Their request was granted, but only in part. They were not given a king "like all the nations." God would still be in charge!
 - c. See I Samuel 13:13-14- the king is accountable to God. We also see God's desire in establishing an earthly kingdom.
 - d. "If they had simply desired a king to be given them according to the law of God (Deuteronomy 17:15), that should govern them in equity, and such an one as feared God, they then had not offended; but now they do ask a king of a preposterous desire only that they might be like unto other nations; yet God, having purposed to erect among his people a kingly throne, and to raise unto them a king of whose seed Messiah should come, took this occasion to accomplish his purpose, so turning their evil and inordinate desire unto a good end, as God can convert the evil thoughts and actions of men to serve for his own glory" (Andrew Willet).
 - e. V. 22- "Make them a king"- This is kind of humorous if you think about it. Israel rejects the rule of God yet they cannot escape it, because God will appoint their king. God will never step off His throne, even if man asks Him to. Yet if we resist the rule of God, we will find that we only hurt ourselves.

Conclusion:

- We as Christians are truly blessed because Jesus fulfills the office of prophet, priest, and king for us!
- Throughout human history we have seen men rejecting God's rule upon their life!
- Does Jesus rule on the throne of your heart?

- Amidst much political clamor, and unrest may we not lose sight that all things are moving towards God's Kingdom when King Jesus shall reign- and we with Him!

This is my Father's world:

Oh, let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world,

The battle is not done:

Jesus who died shall be satisfied,

And earth and Heav'n be one.