

Series: Acts

Lesson: #46

Title: Jesus the King and Savior

Scripture: Acts 13: 20-41

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Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Acts 13: 20: And after (about the space of four hundred and fifty years)...he gave *unto them* judges..., until Samuel the prophet. 21: And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. 22: And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will.

SINFUL MAN'S CHOICE—Over and over thus far Paul has repeatedly pointed out the choice of sinful man. If you would be the kind of sinner God saves, if you would truly be of God's true Israel then, Paul says, this is the kind of sinner you are. And more importantly, this is the kind of sinner you must be brought to see yourself as and to confess that you are—what kind of sinner is that?--a God rejecter. The people of Israel rejected God. That is what Paul is declaring in this survey of the history of the people of Israel.

Acts 13: 20:...he gave *unto them* judges..., until Samuel the prophet. 21: And afterward they desired a king

GOD RAISED UP JUDGES WHO SERVED AS JUDGES--SAVIORS--AND A KIND OF KING AMONG THE PEOPLE--out of their midst, from among them, these judges were saviors which delivered them out of the hand of their enemy. These judges served as a kind of king in the midst of Israel though they did not go by that direct title. But they served as savior's and as kings in the regard that they bore witness to the people that God was their Savior and their King.

As long as they had a judge the people worshipped God, but when God removed the judge through physical death, the people turned from God and went back to their idolatry. (Read the book of Judges.) Thus God teaches the believer that we must have our King and our Savior—Christ Jesus the Son of God--at all times or we shall perish in our sins.

GOD ALSO RAISED UP SAMUEL THE PROPHET—this is equally important, because the prophet declared the word of God. The prophet is mentioned here in direct connection with the savior and the king because Samuel, like all God's messengers, had one message. Samuel's gospel was the LORD God is the King and Savior of his people. Samuel's gospel was God is your King and your Savior.

BUT THEN WE ARE SHOWN THE SINFUL HEART OF MAN

Acts 13: 21: **And afterward they desired a king**

I Samuel 8: 1: And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2: Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: *they were* judges in Beersheba. 3: And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. 4: Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

- **1 Corinthians 11:19: For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.** These elders gathered themselves together—they exalted themselves and pumped up one another in their cause. They decided that the heresy of Samuel's sons was all the proof they needed that Samuel needed to step aside. Fact is the King and Savior of this world gave them Samuel's sons to make known the rebellion of their inward hearts toward God. They could care less about how Samuel's sons acted because in their own hearts they were just like Samuels' sons. But they saw the rebellion of his sons as a way to get rid of this gospel of THE KING AND THE SAVIOR, a way to get rid of Samuel who preached the truth of their King and Savior, and to look as if they were doing it for pious and holy reasons.
- Now listen to what they really wanted...

I Samuel 8: 5: And said unto [Samuel], Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

- The King and Judge in heaven did not satisfy them.
- They considered Samuel—whose gospel was to trust the King and the Judge of heaven alone—as old, and truthfully, they considered his gospel old.
- They used the unbelief of Samuel's sons as their proof that the gospel he preached, moreover the King and Savior who Samuel preached, was unable to save and reign among his people.
- **THEY DID IT BECAUSE THEY WANTED MAN TO RULE THEM AND NOT GOD.**
- That is exactly what God says they wanted.

I Samuel 8: 6: But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. 7: And the LORD said unto Samuel, Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. 8: According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

NEXT, PAUL DECLARES THAT GOD SHOWED THEM (AND US) JUST THE KIND OF KING AND SAVIOR WE HAVE WHEN WE LOOK TO OURSELVES TO GOVERN AND SAVE US.

Acts 13: 21: And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

The King and Savior gave them a king like the other nations had. He tells you and I just like he told them, what we can expect if we look to ourselves.

I Samuel 8: 9: Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. 10: And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. 11: And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots. 12: And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. 13: And he will take your daughters *to be* confectionaries, and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers. 14: And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, *even the best of them*, and give *them* to his servants. 15: And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. 16: And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work. 17: He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. 18: And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. 19: Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20: That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. 21: And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22: And the LORD said to Samuel, Harken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

GONE AWAY BACKWARDS--You know where this world is right now? The same place it has always been, the same place it was in Samuel's day when they said, "Samuel is old, look at his sons, they don't walk in his ways. We don't want that old prophet, that old message, that same old King and Savior; look at all the evil in the world, if your God was really King and Savior this wouldn't be!" So man's solution is to turn from Christ the King and Savior to the very evil-men they use to justify their rejection of God. What an example of the backward heart in man. Unless God save us from ourselves, we want the dominion, we want to be king, we want to be our own savior, because we want—not to be conformed to the image of God—but we want to be conformed to the nation of people who do not know God. **THAT IS WHY WE MUST HAVE THE TRUE KING AND SAVIOR OR ELSE WE PERISH!**

THE MERCY AND GRACE OF GOD TOWARD HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE

Acts 13: 22: And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Paul declares to the people in the synagogue: every time, this people of Israel asked for something, it was for death not life. It was to be like the world, not like God. That is the flesh if God leaves us to ourselves—that is the case with the unbeliever and with the believer. But Paul says, God removed Saul and he raised up unto them David to be their king.

When our King and Savior comes to chosen sinners, he merciful and graciously removes our king like he did Saul. The Holy Spirit raises up our true King and Savior Jesus—to be our king. God gives his testimony in the heart of his people when he writes his law on the inward part and this is what God says, “I have found David, the son of Jesse—Christ Jesus my Son--a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will.”

PAUL'S GOSPEL IN THE SYNAGOGUE IS THIS: CHRIST JESUS IS THE TRUE KING AND SAVIOR.

Paul begins by declaring Christ the Savior:

Acts 13: 23: Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

OF THIS MAN'S SEED—of David's lineage according to the flesh

Matthew 1:1: The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Of this man's seed HATH GOD ACCORDING TO PROMISE:

- According to the everlasting covenant
- Just as God promised Abraham
- Just as God promised David--**II Samuel 7: 8: Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: 9: And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth. 10: Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, 11: And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. 12: And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13: He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14: I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit**

iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16: And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. 17: According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

RAISED UNTO ISRAEL

- Romans 9: 8: That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.
- Romans 3: 28: For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29: But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.
- Galatians 3: 29: And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

ACCORDING TO THE EVERLASTING COVENANT GOD HATH RAISED TO HIS CHOSEN, EVERLASTINGLY LOVED, ISRAEL...

A SAVIOR, JESUS—A JUDGE—FOR HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

Then Paul moves on to declaring that Christ is also, King:

Acts 13: 24: When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25: And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose.

John placed himself in the submissive position of a servant before his King, exalting Christ the King as highly as he could, by declaring he was not even worthy to take off his shoes, much less be this King's foot washer, when he said, "**Behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.**"

UNTIL WE ARE MADE TO BEHOLD THAT CHRIST JESUS IS GOD AND MAN, KING AND SAVIOR, WE MAKE EVERY THING ELSE THE ISSUE, BUT THE ISSUE.

How many self-serving, ignorant questions did the Pharisees come to Christ asking? On one occasion: Matthew 22: 41: While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42: Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, *The Son* of David. 43: He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44: The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 45: If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? 46: And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any *man* from that day forth ask him any more *questions*.

Luke 1: 32: He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

The KING is the SAVIOR and the SAVIOR IS THE KING—WHY WOULD MEN PREACH ANYTHING ELSE? WHY WOULD MEN ASK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT CHRIST? Only because Christ is not All to them.

- The Pharisees sought to be accepted because they worked to proselyte non-Jews—for many today it is evangelizing non-Christians— The Lord Jesus declared that if the message is not Christ who has accomplished the salvation of his people and the total inability of sinners then all you have done is make them a two-fold child of hell. They are dead in sins and now twice dead because they their hope is in their self-made righteousness.
- Most of the questions asked our Lord were to determine if he answered according to a system they had memorized and considered their salvation—they claimed to base it on God’s word but they taught the fear of God by the precepts of men.
- Some seek acceptance by the law after conversion--You can shackle a man with chains on his arms but you can’t lock his heart away. Nor can you constrain a man’s heart by putting shackles on his hands. I do not use the law of Moses or the gospel of Christ to unlawfully constrain you, but I simply witness of the greatness of Christ my Lord. Through the testimony of his excellency Christ constrains his people by love in their heart by revealing his great love wherewith he loved us and gave himself for us. Any other constraining is craftiness, excellency of speech, and not the power of God.

Acts 13: 26: Men *and* brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

- You who count yourselves among the true children of Israel
- You who come to the Lord’s house every sabaath
- You who read the law and the prophets without ceasing
- You who count yourselves as judges able to tell right from wrong by your own ability
- You who count yourselves as rulers and kings able to govern and rule yourselves
- To you is the word of Christ the King and Savior come...
- You have beheld what happened in the past and how men chose themselves and rejected God
- Now Paul says, has the natural heart in man changed at all since those days?

Acts 13: 27: For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*. 28: And though they found no cause of death *in him*, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

Paul pointed back to how the children of Israel rejected God in rejecting his prophets, priests and kings. Then he says, and when God, the Prince of Life came, those who sat in the seats as kings and judges over Israel once again proved all that men can do when they rejected him, but this time in Person. Christ the King and Savior was rejected by men for the same reasons he was rejected by men throughout the ages:

- **Because they knew him not...**Can you ask him, “Who is Christ that I might believe on him?”

- **They knew not the gospel of the prophets though they knew the letter which they read every sabbath day**—Paul is bringing this message home to the heart—he says, “you just read the law and the prophets do you not hear what God’s word says!”—you who don’t ask about Christ because you want conduct the Kings business the way you want to conduct it—do you understand what thou readest? Oh that God would give you the grace to say, “How can I except some man teach me.”
- When they read that he would be rejected by men who would condemn him to death, they never considered themselves to be the ones who would do it and yet...**they have fulfilled those very scriptures in condemning him**—are you among them crying, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”
- In the same manner the people of old dealt with Samuel, just like the people of old rejected God when they rejected Samuel, **though they found no cause of death in Christ, yet they desired Pilate that he should be slain**—have you rejected him, will you continue rejecting him?
- Behold what sinful man did—Jew and Gentile, religious and otherwise, moral and immoral, behold what enmity against God is--when God’s Christ came, behold how well man judged for himself and how well man governed for himself when THE King and Savior over the whole world came we rejected God for the vile scum called man.

DID THE UNBELIEF OF THOSE IN THE PAST HINDER GOD FROM SENDING FORTH HIS SON, DID THE UNBELIEF OF THOSE WHO CRUCIFIED HIM HINDER GOD FROM RAISING UP HIS KING AND HIS SAVIOR EVEN FROM THE DEAD?

Acts 13: 29: And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the tree, and laid *him* in a sepulchre. 30: But God raised him from the dead:

WHAT IF SOME DID NOT BELIEVE SHALL THEIR UNBELIEF MAKE THE FAITH OF GOD NON-EFFECTUAL? CAN GOD SAVE HIS PEOPLE INSPITE OF THE SIN AND REBELLION OF HIS PEOPLE?

Acts 13: 31: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

WILL THE REJECTION AND DENIAL OF GOD STOP THE KING AND SAVIOR FROM SENDING FORTH HIS GOSPEL TO HIS PEOPLE?

Acts 13: 32: And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, 33: God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

WILL THE OBSTINATE REBELLION OF HIS PEOPLE LEAVE THE KING AND SAVIOR FRUSTRATED OR WILL GOD THE FATHER GIVE HIM ALL THE PEOPLE PROMISED HIM IN THE ETERNAL COVENANT OF GRACE?

Acts 13: 34: And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, *now* no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. 35: Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 36: For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

SO WHAT IS IT PAUL IS DECLARING TO US?

Acts 13: 38: Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Acts 5:31: Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

- When Christ was made sin for us—he was made sin for every elect child of God and for them alone.
- When Christ purged our sin—he purged the sin of every elect child of God and theirs alone.
- When Christ rose again for our justification—he rose again for the justification of every elect child of God and for their justification alone.
- He gives repentance to every elect child who makes up his Israel—for they make up his body of which he is the Head
- He gives forgiveness of sins to every elect child who makes up his Israel—for he has reconciled them to God, made atonement for them, and by his life they must and shall live forever.

HE DID NOT MAKE FORGIVENESS POSSIBLE; HE DID NOT MAKE THE REMISSION OF SINS A POSSIBILITY; IT IS NOT BY YOUR ACT OF BELIEVING THAT YOU ARE JUSTIFIED, BUT BY HIM, BY HIM, BY HIM, BY HIS OBEDIENCE TO THE PRECEPTS OF THE LAW OF MOSES AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS PEOPLE AND BY HIS OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OF MOSES AS THE SUBSTITUTE OF HIS PEOPLE ON THE CROSS, ALL THAT BELIEVE ARE JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS, FROM WHICH YE COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BY YOUR OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OF MOSES.

IF THERE IS ONE THING PAUL HAS MADE CLEAR IN THIS HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL IT IS THIS: MAN CAN NOT PLEASE GOD, MAN IS GUILTY BEFORE GOD, MAN CHOOSES DEATH NOT LIFE, THEREFORE NO AMOUNT OF RELIGIOUS POSTERING CAN MAKE YOU RIGHT WITH GOD.

Are you a true son, a true daughter of Abraham? If so, you confess that in your flesh is nothing good, that you are the chief of sinners, and you don't stop confessing it.

Are you truly a son of Abraham? If so, you behold and submit in faith to Christ your King and your Savior. Bow to the King and confess your dire need of him.

SEEING THAT THE UNBELIEF OF THOSE WHO REJECTED HIM HAS NOT FRUSTRATED GOD'S PROMISE BUT THAT HE HATH RAISED UNTO HIS PEOPLE A KING AND A SAVIOR, DO YOU THINK YOUR UNBELIEF WILL HINDER GOD FROM SAVING HIS PEOPLE? THEN BEWARE LEST YOU BE FOUND AMONG THAT UNBELIEVING NUMBER SPOKEN OF IN THE PROPHETS:

Acts 13: 40: Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; 41: Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

Or are you of the multitude in Israel who perished in unbelief? Are you among that number who was too religious, too pious, too enamored with themselves to recognize their need of a Righteous King and a Savior? Your unbelief will serve to glory God who declared your generation long, long ago by the mouth of his prophets.

Acts 13: 40: Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;

Everybody wants a king and a savior like the other nations have. But in the pollution of a sinful nature, nobody wants the King and Savior which God hath raised up. Only those in whom Christ the King and Savior has taken up residence through the Holy Spirit are satisfied with him. Are you?

He is ruling his kingdom from his throne doing all God's will in a far better way than David—Christ is the man after God's own heart.

If you are his, because he put you in Christ, he will turn you from yourself—take away the king and the savior you desire—and he will raise up to you **CHRIST THE KING AND SAVIOR OF HIS PEOPLE.**