

Lecture 14: 1 Samuel – The King Question

February 14, 2020

Who is a character that stands out to you, and why?

Hannah	Samuel	Jonathan
Eli	Saul	David

The Beginning of the Kingdom...

Who is God? Who is man?

What is the problem? The solution?

God often starts a new historical era with a birth—something the seed promise fills with anticipation.

Illus. Jesus did not despise working with children (Mk. 10:13-16).

Man has a range from Eli to Jonathan (1 Sam. 18:1 – “loved him as himself”).

Foreign oppression under the Philistines, but a national repentance starts a new cycle...

The King Paradox

Deuteronomy 17 – God anticipated a limited monarchy under the Law of God

Hannah offers a prophetic prayer that includes the future king (1 Sam. 2:10).

Judges – A king is necessary due to moral relativism leading to social anarchy (chs. 17-21).

1 Samuel – *But the people are sinning when they want a king! Why?!*

Illus. The Articles of Confederation to the U.S. Constitution – a stronger central government?

Federalists vs. Antifederalists – the loss of personal liberty!

Ans. The people want a king for the wrong reasons—to look like other nations. They are rejecting God.

Solution – Government is a necessary evil.

“If men were angels, no government would be necessary” (*Federalist Papers*, No. 51).

God’s Ways

Moses: “Let me know Your ways that I may know You” (Ex. 33:13).

1. Realism, not idealism.

Illus. Divorce in Mosaic Law (Mt. 19:1ff).

2. Beware of answered prayers! Circumstances do not *necessarily* reveal God’s intentions (cf. Gen. 50:20).

Illus. Ohio woman meeting an old boyfriend after nine years (cf. Job too)

3. God often saves through the few, the young, and the weak.

Illus. Jonathan and the Philistine garrison (1 Sam. 14), David and the Philistine giant (1 Sam. 17).

What Kind of a King?

Just knowing it is necessary to *have* a king does not tell us what *kind* of a king is necessary.

King Saul

But does *he* face the giant?

Pros – He looks the part—taller than anyone in Israel.

Cons – He lacks the heart—consumed with envy.

Therefore, Saul is proud.

Illus. To be avenged of “my enemies,” keep my oath, and kill my son for my honor (1 Sam. 14).

Illus. He even built a monument for himself (1 Sam. 15:12).

Obj. But he was so *shy*, hiding among the baggage!

Ans. A shy person is also proud—caring too much one’s reputation in the eyes of others.

The only thing missing are the circumstances to reveal the tyrannical grip of pride.

King-to-Be David

Pros – “a man after [God’s] own heart” (1 Sam. 13:14)

Cons – the youngest of eight and handsome (inexperienced at war)—cf. Goliath’s scoffing

Therefore, David has lasting faith: “The battle is the LORD’s” (1 Sam. 17:47).

Who is the Seed of Abraham?

“As for the proud man, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith” (Hab. 2:4).

What kind of king do they need?

They do not need a king like all the nations, a king to lead them to *battle*—judges did that fine.

They need a king who lead them to *God*—they need not a Saul, but a David.