

1 SAMUEL 8 – ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING!

5/19/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING – Author Unknown Felice de Giardini CCCM #88

1 Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing, Help us to praise. Father, all glorious, O'er all victorious, Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.
2 Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword, Our prayer attend: Come, and Thy people bless, And give Thy word success; Spirit of holiness, On us descend.
3 Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour: Thou who Almighty art, Now rule in every heart, And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.
4 To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore. Thy sov'reign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.

Chapter 8 – Israel Demands a King

The LORD had been King of Israel and had cared for the nation since its beginning; but now the elders of the nation wanted a king to lead them. Their request was motivated by: (1) Samuel's sons were not godly and the elders feared that they would lead the nation astray when Samuel died; (2) the nation had been through a series of temporary leaders during the period of the Judges, and the elders wanted a more permanent ruler; and (3) Israel wanted to be like the other nations and have a king to honor. The powerful nations around Israel were a constant threat, and the elders felt that a king would give greater security. Samuel's reaction to their request shows that he fully understood their unbelief and rebellion: they were rejecting Jehovah. Here is an illustration of God's permissive will: He granted them their request, but He warned them of the cost. The nation listened to Samuel and then asked for a king just the same! **They wanted to be like the other nations**, even though **God had called them to be separate from the nations**.

1Sa 8:1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. - Samuel was one of the most godly men in the Bible. He is never specifically said to sin. Yet, this may be a sin on his part. We never have the pattern of **judges** being appointed by men, or of the office of judge being passed from father to son. Samuel was not right in appointing **his sons judges over Israel**.

1Sa 8:2-3 The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. [3] But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. - This is why Samuel was wrong to appoint his **sons as judges over Israel**. Nepotism is a common, but harmful mistake many leaders in ministry make, especially as they grow older. **They turned aside to dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice**.

1Sa 8:4-5 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, [5] and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." - It was wise for the elders to reject Samuel's sons as leaders, but it was wrong for them to request, **"Now make for us a king to judge us like all the nations."** The reason Israel wanted a king was wrong! We get into trouble by wanting to be like the world. Instead we must be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2). The church struggles with the same issue today, compromising, wanting to be like the world.

1Sa 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So, Samuel prayed to the LORD. - Samuel was stung by the rejection of his sons. But even more than that, Samuel saw the ungodly motive behind the elders' request for a king. But **Samuel prayed to the LORD!** This is the right thing to do whenever we are **displeased**. We should never carry such troubles with us. We should do what Samuel did - pray **to the LORD**.

1Sa 8:7a And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; - God told Samuel to fulfill the people's request. Not because their request was right, but because God was going to teach Israel through this. When we insist on something bad, God will often allow us to have it, and then learn the consequences.

1Sa 8:7b for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. - 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 trusting in the LORD.

1Sa 8:8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. - In fact, Israel was forsaking God by asking for a king: **They have forsaken Me . . . so they are doing to you also.** When the elders of Israel asked for a king, they were thinking that better politics or government could meet their needs. But if they had just been faithful to their King in heaven, they would not have needed a king on earth.

1Sa 8:9 Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them." - Israel will not change their mind, and this isn't Samuel's goal. His goal is to simply **forewarn them**. If this was the course Israel would choose, God wanted them to be forewarned and informed. Samuel obediently shows **them the behavior of the king who will reign over them**.

1Sa 8:10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. [11] he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. - God wanted Israel to know there would be problems connected with having a king. In Israel's view, they had problems that would be solved by having a king. While those problems may have been solved, God wanted them to know a king would bring other problems also. They should carefully weigh the benefits against the problems.

1Sa 8:12-17 He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. [13] He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. [14] And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. [15] He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. [16] And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. [17] He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. - He will take . . . He will take . . . he will take . . . He will take . . . he will take . . . He will take . . . And you will be his servants: The LORD, through the prophet Samuel, is giving fair warning. Human kings are takers, not givers, and they come to be served, not to serve. If Israel wants a king, they must realize he will be a taker, not a giver, and they **will be his servants**.

1Sa 8:18 And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day." - Why will Israel **cry out**? Because they wanted a king for unspiritual, ungodly reasons. So God will call this coming king **your king**, and make it clear that he is the king **whom you have chosen**. If Israel had waited for God's king, they would never needed to **cry out** unto the LORD.

1Sa 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, - Israel demanded a king, and as it will work out, this is exactly what happens. God gives Israel "their" king: Saul. Later, after "their" king fails, God will give Israel "His" king: David. Because we know God ultimately wanted Israel to be a monarchy. It's probable that if Israel had not forsaken the LORD here, God would have made David the first king of Israel, and spared the nation (and David!) all the trouble Saul caused.

1Sa 8:20 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." - The heart of the nation of Israel is revealed by their reasons for wanting a king. They wanted to be like all the other nations. They wanted a king to judge them and fight their battles for them. They basically wanted to reject God in favor of a wishful king. **Psa 106:15 And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.**

SUMMARY:

- **How destructive is wicked leadership in the church! Righteousness should begin there!**
- **Israel wanted to be like the world more than they wanted to surrender to the LORD! Do we?**
- **God gave in to the demands of the people. He won't force us now to obey. He will when Jesus comes!**
- **God so wants us to live on His high level and not on our self-chosen, low level! Read Ephesians.**
- **May we submit our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ that He might reign over us. Lord be our King!**
- **Rule over our hearts and lives. Help us, Lord, lest we be ruled over by our own flesh, power of sin, or power of darkness. Lord, may we submit ourselves to be ruled over by Jesus Christ!**

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct.

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