

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

**[1Sa 8:1-22 NKJV] 1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 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. 4 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." 6 But**

**the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, 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 to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods--so they are doing to you also. 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." 10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. 11 And 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. 12 "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. 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." 19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, 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 repeated them in the hearing of the LORD. 22 So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

One of the most notable things that we have seen in our text the last few weeks, has been the change of heart amongst the Israelites.

Two weeks ago, when we studied Chapter four, we saw the Israelites get defeated by the Philistines and then they thought they could manipulate God in fighting their battles by bringing the Ark of the Covenant to the battle and they suffered a greater loss than the first battle.

They lost men and they lost the Ark of the Covenant.

Last week, we saw that Ark of the Covenant returned to Israelites – it wasn't because of anything they had done - the Philistines just wanted to get rid of it after they were inflicted with tumors.

But something significant happened in chapter seven and that was that Samuel began to judge them.

They first had to repent – they had to turn away from their foreign gods.

They had to serve God only.

And when they did repent, let's remind ourselves what happened -

**[1Sa 7:13-14 NKJV] 13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. 14 Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel**

**recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines.**

**Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.**

When they did repent, when the Israelites did put away their

false gods and served God only, **their enemies were**

**defeated, their territories were restored and they had peace.**

So a big difference between chapter 4 and chapter 7,

I want to point out that there is period of time between chapter seven and chapter eight.

The estimates are that chapter eight happens 25-30 years after chapter seven.

This is a new generation of Israelites.

Let's look at our text again.

**[1Sa 8:1-3 NKJV] 1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 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.**

Samuel is getting up in there in his years.

He is not as fast as he was when he was younger and in verse one, it says that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. And I asked you guys to underline that.

The reason being, up to this time - judges were only appointed by God.



The entire book of Judges, we have judges that were appointed by God in an effort to deliver the Israelites out of the hands of one of their adversaries.

But God appointed them – they served a short time and that was it.

Here Samuel appoints his sons –

The office of judges was not one that could be passed from father to son.

So, why would Samuel appoint his sons to be judges – because Samuel was too busy doing ministry work.

At the end of chapter 7, we see that Samuel judged Israel by traveling from city to city throughout the year.

And because he can't keep up, he appoints his two sons as judges at the southernmost city.

Joel – “Yahweh is God”

Abijah – “Yaweh is my father”

However, we find the character of Samuel's two sons do not reflect the meaning of their names.

Samuel two sons did not father in their father's footsteps.

In fact they resemble the sons of Eli that we read about in chapters three and chapter four.

Remember, they were stealing the meat that people would bring to sacrifice for God, they were causing the people to resent bringing sacrifices before God because they would leave feeling cheated.

They were profiting from their priestly duties.

Samuel's sons were to be upholding justice – however, they were accepting bribes and perverting justice.

They were also in it for themselves.

Anyone with deep pockets would be able to buy them and have them rule in their favor.

So how did this happen??? Samuel is one of the godliest individuals we find in scripture.

- It could be that as he traveled from town to town, Samuel abandoned his responsibilities in leading his children. He let his ministry life supersede his family life.

There will be people that will say, “yes but, he was doing it unto the Lord” – the problem with that is the God will

not lead one into ministry if it means the breakdown of one's family. God is first, Spouse is second, kids third then ministry.

- It could also be that even the godliest people can have rebellious children. Many of the pastors I know, who had children grow up in the church – they rebelled.

Our responsibility as parents is to instruct them by what we say and by the way we live, eventually it is up to our children to make the decision of who they will serve.

**[1Sa 8:4-5 NKJV] 4 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."**

Up until now, Israel had prophets, Israel had priests and Israel had judges.

And now they want a king – however, they had a King – God was supposed to be their King.

They were supposed to be a theocracy.

**Reminder: The name Israel means governed by God.**

But now, they wanted a man for a king.

Turn with me to the book of Judges 8.

Now, Gideon was one of the judges that God appointed - and Gideon delivered the Israelites from the hands of the Medianites.

And after leading them to victory listen to what the men wanted to do to Gideon,

**[Jdg 8:22-23 NKJV] 22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian." 23 But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you."**

The people wanted a monarchy –

In fact, God knew that when the Children of Israel conquered the Promised Land that eventually they would demand a king.

And 400 years before they demand a king from Samuel, God made instructions for them when the time came for them to select a man king.

Turn with me to Deut 17 -

[Deu 17:14-20 NKJV] 14 "When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that [are] around me,' 15 "you shall surely set a king over you whom the **LORD your God chooses;** [one] from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who [is] not your brother. 16 "But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' 17 "**Neither shall he multiply wives for himself,** lest his heart turn away; **nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.** 18 "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that

he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from [the one] before the priests, the Levites. 19 "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 "that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment [to] the right hand or [to] the left, and that he may prolong [his] days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

So whoever was going to be selected king

- God was the one that was going to choose the person
- He was not supposed to profit financially or with women
  - that is where Solomon failed



- He couldn't be prideful – we see this in verse 20 where it says that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren – and we will see this as a failure in the life of King Saul
- He was supposed to be led by the word of God –

**[1Sa 8:6-8 NKJV] 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, 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 to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods--so they are doing to you also.**

Upon hearing the people demand a king, Samuel took it personally.

He felt that it was a rejection of him.

But noticed that Samuel did not lash out at the people in anger –

What did he do???

He prayed about it.

Think about this the next time you try to share the gospel with someone or minister to someone and they totally blow you off.

Or they are extremely rude about it or they become confrontational about it.

Pray about it –

It may be that you may not be the person they have a problem with – It may be the Lord they have a problem with.

And that is how the Lord responds to Samuel's prayer. By letting him know that they are not rejecting him – they are rejecting God.

I asked you to highlight where God tells Samuel to heed their voice.

You see, God is going to give into the demands of the people.

Why? Because God has given us free will.

He is not going to force us to serve Him.

Sometimes when we insist on having something bad God will allow us to have it and then teach through it.

**[1Sa 8:9 NKJV] 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."**

Even though the men had made up their minds already about wanting a king.

God is instructing Samuel to let them know the repercussions of their request.

If you want a king, if you really want a king, I am going to hold you accountable by telling you how a human king will behave.

That way later on – you cannot come back and say I did not know????

**[1Sa 8:10-12 NKJV] 10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. 11 And 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. 12 "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.**

If you select to have a king, he will draft your sons into his army and into his service.

**[1Sa 8:13 NKJV] 13 "He will take your daughters [to be] perfumers, cooks, and bakers.**

If you select to have a king, not only will your sons be taken away from you so, will your daughters as the king will place them in his kitchens.

The people were only focused on some of the advantages of having a king – they were not focusing on the personnel and the resources that the king was going to require to maintain his kingdom and also to serve him.

**[1Sa 8:14-16 NKJV] 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.**

If you select to have a king, he will take your property and your income.

This is done through taxation.

The Israelites want to be like the nations around them but Samuel is warning them that it will cost them greatly.

Because in order to run a government you need people, land and money.

Just in our country, 1 out of 14 people work for the government.

**[1Sa 8:17-18 NKJV] 17 "He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. 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."**

Keep in mind that the Israelites at this time were already paying a tithe to help support the priests.

By selecting to have a king it was going to double the amount they had to pay.

The warning from God is that most kings are takers and not givers. They come to be served and not to serve.

**Unless of course, we are talking about the King of Kings – He did not come to be serve but to serve. Matt 20:28.**

I asked you to underline verse 18 – it is a warning to the people of Israel, because the warning that is given here is – you will have to live with your decision.



If you cast your vote for a king, when you get your king, there is no turning back –

**[1Sa 8:19-20 NKJV] 19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, 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."**

Samuel hoped that the people would change their minds after listening to him warn them about what would happen if they select to go with a king.

However, the people were stubborn and resisted God's advice.

They insisted on a king – because they wanted to be like the other nations around them.

Church, God wanted to make Israel something special, and the sad thing is they wanted to be just like everyone else.

They wanted someone that was going to judge them and go before them and fight their battles.

But, that is exactly what God had done in the last chapter. It was God that had defeated the Philistines and restored their land.

You see, the Israelites had a king – yet what they really wanted was an image of a king. They wanted a king that looked like what they thought a king should be.

**[1Sa 8:21-22 NKJV] 21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD. 22 So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their**

**voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."**

Samuel listened to what the people said and came before the Lord – and the Lord commanded Samuel to give them what they wanted.

Next week, we will see the choosing of the first king.

Church, how tragic is it when God's people reject God's plan in order to follow one of their own.

The consequences are always tragic.

People often make decisions that affect the rest of their lives, and even the lives of their descendants for many generations.

This is the error that the Israelites choose to make here in chapter 8.

Always remember, If we insist on our way, God will allow us our ways so that He can teach us through the ugly consequences that will be upon us - by our own choice.

May we always heed His advice and not our own.

Let's pray...

