

1 Samuel 8:19-21

“Israel Demands a King:

Be Careful What You Wish For!”

Intro.

I. **Israel demands a king**

A. They wanted a king:

- 1) Other than God.
- 2) Of their own choosing.
- 3) After their own heart.

B. They wanted another king b/c:

- 1) God wasn't permissive; i.e. He was too restrictive.
- 2) God wasn't in proper perspective; He wasn't properly enthroned.
- 3) God wasn't sufficient; there were other things/people they were dependent upon.

Body

I. **WHAT kind of king did Israel want & WHY?**

A. **They wanted a King:**

- 1) Other than God b/c they weren't **content** with their God: v.20 – *“That we also may be like all the nations”*.
 - a) One of the things they were discontent with was the uniqueness of their God/King – Lev. 20:26; Deut. 4:6-9; 7:6-8; 9:4-6; 14:2; 2 Sam. 7:23-24; 2 Cor. 6:17; 1 Pet. 2:9.
 - b) *Failed to realize what/Who they had was ultimately what everyone else needed/coveted = current Christianity today.*

- i) Too many Christians & churches are no longer content with their God; they want to be more like the world & want more of the sinful pleasures it has to offer (**material and theological**) – Matt. 5:16; 6:19-21, 24-34; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:1-5.
- ii) *If Christians ever comprehend what we have it will completely impact the way we live causing others to crave Who/what we possess – 2 Cor. 5:21; 8:9.*
- c) *** God had prepared a king for them, David, but it wasn't time yet – 1 Sam. 16.
- d) God had been & would continue to be their King...**as long as they submitted to His rule & authority – v.7.**
 - i) *3 main factors in removing God as our King: discontentment, impatience & pride – Phil. 4:11.*
 - ii) *We become disgruntled with God's word & works; with His authority & His means when sinful tendencies take the place of God's rule in our hearts = v.3: "...they turned aside to dishonest gain, took bribes and perverted justice."*
- 2) Of their own choosing b/c they weren't **comfortable** with their God: v.20 – "...and that our king may judge us..."
 - a) God wasn't permissive enough; was too restrictive – **Ezekiel 18:19-32** – unfair b/c they thought He was too harsh.
 - i) John 19:15 = we'll decide who rules over us & it's definitely not going to be Jesus.
 - ii) We turn away from God's rule when we don't get the answers we like or are comfortable with – Mark 7:6-9; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; 1 John 5:3.
 - iii) When we do this, whoever/whatever is most important to us will become our king – 1 Sam. 12:19-25; Jer. 2:11-13.

- 3) After their own heart b/c they weren't **confident** in their God: v.20 – "...and go out before us and fight our battles." – Ex. 14:14; Deut. 31:1-8; 1 Sam. 17:45-47.
- a) God wasn't in proper perspective; properly enthroned; He wasn't sufficient; there were other things/people they were dependent on.
 - b) Even though God had told them He would fight for them & proven Himself repeatedly, they were convinced someone else could provide for & protect them better.
 - i) *One of the main reasons people don't have confidence in God to win their current battles is b/c they've never trusted Him to fight for them in the past – 1 Sam. 17:37.*
 - ii) *Christians fight too many battles God never intended us to fight; carry burdens never intended to carry.*
 - iii) *Far too many Christians acknowledge God as God; as God of the universe; God of Creation; God of salvation; but not as Lord & Master...as complete & absolute ruler of their own life – Gen. 3:1: LORD God.*
 - iv) How much confidence do you have in the Lord? When was the last time you saw Him fight for you?

II. **Consequences of sin & rebellion– v.11-18**

A. "He will take" 6x's in v.11-17.

- 1) *Sin never delivers the promises it makes and always takes more than expected – Gen. 3:1-19.*

B. Sin (satan) takes:

- 1) V.11 – 13 – Your family – Ex. 20:5; Deut. 5:9
- 2) V.14-17 – Your resources – Eccl. 2:12-26; Luke 12:13-21
- 3) V.17b – Your freedom: "And you will be his servants."

- a) John 8:34; 10:10; Rom. 6:16
- 4) V.18 – Your relationship with God.
 - a) Deut. 31:16-18; Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:29; Is. 59:1-2; Micah 3:4; John 9:31
- 5) V.19-20– Your reason: *“Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel, and they said: ‘No, but we will have a king over us’”* – **They already had a King!!!**

III. **The solution – 1 Sam. 12**

- A. V.20 – turn back to God & serve Him with your *whole* heart – Joel 2:12-13; Zech. 1:3; Mal. 3:7
- B. V.24 – fear the Lord – Prov. 1:7; 16:6
- C. V.24 – Serve God in truth & with *all* your heart, not just lip service – Is. 29:13; Matt. 23:27-28