

Maranatha Fellowship CRC

Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, August 28, 2022, 10:00 AM

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 8:1-23

Message: Week 1: The Fall and Rise of Kings:

The Israelite Refused to Listen, Rejected God as their King, and asked for a Human King, but God Granted Them a king

Context:

The text presents Israel's request for a king. It is not only an utter rebellion against God's will, similar to the idolatrous behavior she showed after Exodus 8:8. God was setting out to create a nation in his image, but Israel did not listen to God. She wants to create a king in her image. God did not oppose the prospect of kingship in Israel. Even Jacob referred to the coming Davidic life of royalty from the tribe of Judah on his deathbed. Thus, he predicted the rise of the monarchy, the establishment of the Israelite empire, and the coming of the Messiah himself (Genesis 49:10). In this passage, it is apparent that Israel could not wait for God's timing. So, they settled for something less than God's timing. Samuel sternly warned about the consequences of having a king, yet it did not help (1 Samuel 8:11-17). Therefore, waiting for God's best rather than settling for less is better.

They could not trust God when their enemies in the East (Ammonites) and West (Philistines) of their borders threatened them at the borders. To them, it was much desirable to trust a standing army supplied by an able monarch, someone they could see and trust as a tangible means of security. So, they were cowardly in spirit and lacked courageous faith to trust the system of judges they were in. They did not want to live without defenses until the need arose. So, for them demanding a king was an easy way out. They were not looking at themselves as having religious unfaithfulness.

Samuel warned them about the consequences of the requested kingship and allowed them to change their mind. Since their motivation was wrong initially, they were determined not to back down. It would take courageous faith to keep trusting in the old judges' system and patience to wait for God's timing and for his kingdom to come. Israel didn't want to practice such faith. 1 Sam. 8:19, the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" They said. "We want a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles." So, they showed impatience. In a way, they were saying they wanted a king 'now.' And, by saying, "No," they were being disobedient to God. According to 1 Samuel 8:21-22, when Samuel heard all the people say, he repeated it before the LORD. The LORD answered, "Listen to them and give them a king." Christ is our LORD and King. As modern Christians, we cannot let our lordship of Christ be challenged and compromised as the Israelites did to Yahweh's kingship. We need to exercise strong, courageous, and patient faith no matter what.

Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "The command of Jesus is hard for those who try to resist it. But for those who willingly submit, the yoke is easy, and the burden is light."
 - B. The Elders of Israel Gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and Complained about Samuel and His Two Sons (1 Sam. 8:4-5).
 - C. But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD (1 Sam. 8:6)
 - D. People Were Tired of Same Old Judgeship System in Israel
- II. Conversation 1: God to Samuel
 - A. "Listen to the people; Not you, but they have rejected me as their king..."(v. 7)
 - B. Israel's long-standing pattern of sin and rebellion (v. 8-9)
 - C. Background: The ancient Near Eastern Kingship Was Parasitic: "Take" and "Serve."
- III. Conversation 2: Samuel to People, His Response and Previous Events Revisited
 - A. **Illus:** The Story of Right Motivation: "At the Market in Mexico City – Twenty Strings of Onion for Sale"

- B. God listens to people who obey and repent (1 Sam. 7:4, 6b, 7, 10b, and 11)
- C. Israel Quickly Forgot: Kingship of God - Lord, King, Protector, and Provider
- D. Some Practical Implications
 - 1. Modern Christians: Practice of Faith and Patience
 - 2. God's Timing or Our Timing? Which is Right?

IV. Yahweh's Directions

- A. Yahweh's Direction: Samuel Gives Details of the Consequences of the Kingship Israel Desires... (v. 10-18)
- B. God's People Did Not Listen: They Rejected His Lordship (v. 19-20)
- C. The LORD answered Samuel: "Listen to them and give them a king" (v. 22)

V. Conclusion:

- A. Jesus Came As a King to Love and Served (Mark 11:15-16)
- B. People's Response to Jesus at His Teaching (11:18b) and the Chief Priest feared Him (Mark 11:17), More Response of People (Mark 11:8-10)
- C. Jesus Puts Himself in the Place of the Temple
- D. Accept the kingship of God in the lordship of Christ:
(Jesus is the Servant King Sent by God to Teach Us to give and Serve Others)

Questions and Answers (Refer 1 Samuel 8:1-23, NIV for answers)

1. What were the names of His sons, whom he appointed as Israel's leaders? (1 Sam. 8:1, NIV)
 - A. His firstborn son: Abijah B. The second son: Joel C. The firstborn: Joel D. The second son: Abijah E. Only C and D
2. Elders of Israel gathered with Samuel at Ramah and told him that he was getting old. His sons did not follow his ways because Joel and Abijah, while they were serving in Barsheeba (1 Sam. 8:3b):
 - A. They turned aside dishonest gain B. Accepted bribes C. Perverted justice D. All of the above
3. Samuel was displeased and prayed to the LORD when people said, "Give us a king to lead us" (1 Sam. 8:6). And the Lord told him (1 Sam. 7-9):
 - A. Listen to all that the people are saying; it is not you that they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their King
 - B. As they have done from the day, I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you.
 - C. Now listen to them, but warn them solemnly and let them know what the King who will reign over the m will claim as his rights D. All choices are correct.
4. Samuel told all the Words of the LORD to the people, and this is what the King who will reign over them will claim as his rights (1 Sam. 8:11b-18):
 - A. he will take their sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots B. The King will take the people's daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. C. The King will take the best of the people's fields, vineyards, and olive groves and give them to his attendants. D. He will take the 10th of the flocks, and people will become the King's "slaves." E. When that day comes, people will cry to out for relief, but the LORD will not answer them F. All are correct
5. Did people continue listening or refuse to listen to Samuel? (1 Sam. 8:19)
 - A. Refused B. Continued Listening C. Only A D. Only B
6. God's answer in 1 Sam. 8:22a, Samuel repeated what people said in 1 Sam before the LORD. 8:19
 - A. Listen to them & give them a king B. Don't listen to them; don't give them a king C. Only A correct D. Only B Correct

7. What's our role as modern Christians in the world today? A. Accept the lordship of Christ B. Be firm when it comes to the Kingship of God in Christ C. Be courageous, practice faith and be patient D. Await for God's Timing E. All are correct