

Kings of Israel and Judah – Israel’s Rejection of God I Sam. 8:1-22

Thesis: To help us learn from the mistakes of Israel and put God before man.

Introduction:

- A. This text is one of the darkest days in the history of the children of Israel.
 - 1. They have disregarded the way of God so much that they are now asking for a king to judge them.
 - 2. They did not trust that God would give them a good judge to rule over them; and they want a king.

- B. The purpose of this lesson is to look at the heart of Israel.
 - 1. They wanted a king so that they could be like the other nations around them.
 - 2. Today, we need to be careful that we do not do things just so that we can be like the nations around us.

I. Notice the history of Israel up to this point.

A. Israel suffered in Egypt for 400 years.

- 1. There are a couple of texts that tell us it was 400 years.
 - a. **Gen. 15:13-14** - Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. {14} And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.”
 - b. **Acts 7:6-7** (sermon of Stephen) - “But God spoke in this way: that his (Abraham’s) descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress them four hundred years. {7} ‘And the nation to whom they will be in bondage I will judge,’ said God, ‘and after that they shall come out and serve Me in this place.’”
- 2. Israel came out of Egypt by the mighty hand of God.
 - a. God caused ten plagues to come upon the nation of Egypt.
 - b. After these plagues, God sent Israel out of Egypt by way of the Red Sea.
 - c. The Egyptians drowned in the Sea when they tried to follow Israel.
 - d. God had given Israel their freedom.

B. After wondering in the wilderness for forty years, God sent them into the Promised Land.

- 1. Israel refused to enter the land of Canaan when they first came out of Egypt (**Num. 13-14**).
- 2. Therefore, God destroyed one generation and waited until the next generation was old enough to fight for the land.

3. Acts 13:19 (Paul speaking to the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia) - And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.

C. Judges ruled over Israel for about 450 years.

1. Each time they fell into sin, they would cry out to God and He would send them a judge to help them.
2. Acts 13:20 (Paul speaking to the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia) - After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

D. The nation of Israel was characterized by unfaithfulness followed by faithfulness.

1. Each time Israel is unfaithful to God, they repent and return to Him.
2. This is a cycle that never seems to end.
3. Now they are demanding a king to rule over them instead of the sons of Samuel.

II. Israel demanded a king (8:1-22).

A. Israel wanted a king so that they could be like the other nations around them (8:1-5).

1. The sons of Samuel, Joel and Abijah, were dishonest rulers among the people (8:1-3).
2. Therefore, the people wanted someone else to rule over them.
3. The key to this passage is the reason they wanted a king to rule over them (8:5).
 - a. They wanted a king so that they could be like the other nations around them.
 - b. They were more concerned with other nations than they were with pleasing God.

B. Samuel warns Israel of the dangers of having a king (8:6-18).

1. This king was going to be evil among them (8:10-18).
2. He was going to take things that did not belong to him.
3. He was going to be a great burden to the people of Israel.

C. Even with this warning, Israel wants a king to rule over them (8:19-22).

1. They refused to listen to the logic of Samuel.
2. God granted them their request, and set a king to be over them.

D. There are two important things to note before moving on.

1. They wanted a king so that they could be like the nations around them (8:5, 19-20).
2. The people are rejecting God, not Samuel (8:7).

Practical Application:

III. Today, we cannot be like the world around us.

A. When we are like the world, we are doomed to hell.

1. **Rom. 12:2** - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
2. **I Jn. 2:15-17** - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
3. **Rom. 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. This story (I Sam. 8) also shows us the danger of being like the world in religious matters.

1. Just because everyone else is doing it does not mean it is right.
 - a. Even though the religious world may use instrumental music in worship, we do not because God has told us to sing.
 - b. Even though the religious world says that baptism is not important, we practice baptism because God says it is necessary for salvation.
2. The point is that we cannot afford to be like the religious world when they are wrong.

Conclusion:

- A. When we reject the command of God, we are not rejecting the man that brings the word, we are rejecting God Himself.
- B. Israel rejected God by asking for a king to rule over them.
 1. This was not the system that God had designed for them.
 2. They only wanted a king so that they could be like everyone else around them.