

**Ask and You Shall Receive
Rejecting God as King
10/23/2016 Sunday AM**

Scripture Verses: 1 Samuel 18:4-22

Sermon Notes

- We are in an election year and in 16 days we will choose the next leader of our country.
- This morning I want us to look at a time when the nation of Israel was seeking to change its leadership.

1 Samuel 18:4-22

⁴So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

⁶But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ⁸As 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. ⁹Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."

¹⁰Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. ¹²Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. ¹⁵He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. ¹⁶Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. ¹⁷He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. ¹⁸When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day."

¹⁹But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. ²⁰Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

²¹When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD. ²²The LORD answered, "Listen to them and give them a king." Then Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Everyone go back to his town."

- See up until this time, Israel was ruled by God himself.
- God used people like Moses and Joshua to oversee the people, but they did not rule with absolute power.
- After Joshua died, God raised up judges to save Israel and lead for a period of time.
- After Samuel grew old, his two sons became judges over Israel, but they were dishonest.
- **Vv. 4-6.** So the elders of Israel went to Samuel to ask for a king so that they could be like the other nations.
- **Vv.7-9.** God told Samuel to "Listen to all that the people are saying to you" and "it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."
- Samuel was almost taking it personally that Israel wanted a king, but God reminded Samuel that they were rejecting Him because He was their ruler.
- God also reminded Samuel that Israel had been rejecting Him since He rescued them from Egypt.
- In v. 9 God tells Samuel again to "listen to them," but he is about to warn them about what will happen.
- **Vv.10-18.** In these verses Samuel relays to them God's warnings about what a king will do to them.
- God is basically telling the Israelites that if they want a king, this will come with great sacrifices.
- The king will basically have every single person in the kingdom working for him, sons, daughters, servants, and even the parents themselves.
- Not only would they "become his slaves" as v. 17 says, but the king would also take their money and other material possessions like cattle for his own use.

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- They will be subject to the king and everything that they possess basically will be owned by the king.
 - In v. 18 God predicts that after all of these things happen and the people are oppressed so greatly by the king, that they will “cry out for relief,” but he goes on to say that “the LORD will not answer you in that day.”
 - This is a grave warning that God is giving these Israelites.
 - One would think that they would stop and think harder about this decision that they have made.
 - **Vv. 19-20** The people did not stop and rethink their decision, in an instant they responded, “No!” “We want a king.”
 - See they wanted to be like the other nations and they wanted a king that would go out and fight their battles for them.
 - It is hard to believe that they did not see that God was the one that was fighting their battles the entire time that had been a people.
 - **Vv. 21-22.** So Samuel went back and told God what the people said.
 - God’s response is worth taking note of, yet again he says, “Listen to them and give them a king.”
 - See the people Asked and then they Received.
 - In this moment God allowed the people of Israel to make their own decision as he allows you and I to make our own decisions the vast majority of the time.
 - Just like the Israelites, He also warns us and provides us with information to make an informed decision.
 - It is then up to us to live with the consequences of those decisions.
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- America has fallen into Israel’s footsteps in that we have rejected God and we have turned to human political leaders to be our “kings.”
 - We can look at the warnings that God gave Israel and see those same things happening to American nowadays.
 - We tout in America about our “freedoms” and things of that nature, all the while we continue to seek rulers that will do nothing but oppress and enslave us even more to this world.
 - We are getting to a time in our country to where we are “crying out for relief,” but I am afraid that we are going to get the same answer that God promised the Israelites in v. 18.
 - The type of people that make it to the highest levels of our country’s leadership are products of our choices as a nation.
 - The types of leaders that we are getting are the types of leaders that we have asked for.
 - America is receiving what it is asking for.
 - Until God’s people rise up and Unify together around God’s will and direction we will never see things change for the better, they will only get worse.
 - We cannot say that God has not warned us, because he allowed the Israelites to be an example to us and if we make the same mistakes, we will get the same consequences.
 - We should understand that God is our sovereign King and we should elect political leaders to oversee us that align themselves with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and seek His direction as they lead us.
 - Only when we get leaders like that in our country, will you see the tide turn and America made great again.