

Give Us a King (1 & 2)
1 Sam. 8:4-20

Readings: 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1,
1 Sam. 8:4-20
Matt. 16:13-21

INTRODUCTION:

Maybe more than two parts; Intro in AM, Part I in PM; divide Part II over several PMs if necessary (get another reading).

1. 1 Cor. 10:11-12, the examples of disobedience under the OT.
 - a. Written for our learning, an example.
 - b. "...Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."
2. This lesson, in two parts, will explore...
 - a. Wanting innovations to God's plan.
 - b. Rejecting God and His plans.
3. Israel did it when they wanted a king like the nations around them.
4. We can reject God and His ways when we ask, "Give us a King like the nations (or the denominations) around us."

BODY: Give Us a King (I)

I. Israel's Wants: a King

A. History

1. God took Israel from slavery and made a covenant with them at Mt. Sinai.
 - a. God was their King.
 - b. He defeated kings: Pharaoh, Og (Bashan), Sihon (Heshbon), and others.
 - c. Later many kings upon entering Canaan; 31 listed in Josh. 12.
2. Instruction on selecting a king (Deut. 17:14-17).
3. Seemingly attempts to establish men as a king over Israel:
 - a. Moses viewed as king (Deut. 33:1-5).
 - b. Abimelech made king over men of Shechem and Beth-millo (Jud. 9:6); reigned three years (v. 22).
4. Days of the Judges
 - a. Seeking what was right in man's eyes
 - (1) Gave up on God as King.
 - (2) Sought their own devices (Jud. 17:6).
 - b. Two wicked judges, Samuel's sons (1 Sam. 8:1-3).
 - (1) Joel
 - (2) Abijah
 - (3) Makes you wonder that corrupt leaders come from corrupt people.

5. The actions of Samuel's sons brought on the revolt, where the people wanted a king (1 Sam. 8:4-6).
- B. This too was a rejection of God and His ways (1 Sam. 8:7-8).
 1. God, through Samuel warned what would come of such a king (1 Sam. 8:10-18).
 2. Israel still wants a king (1 Sam. 8:19-22).
 - a. they wanted a king
 - b. they wanted to be like "all the nations..."
 - c. A King:
 - (1) to judge them, go out before them, and fight their battles
 - (2) God had done all this before
 - (a) Judged them according to His law.
 - (b) Went before them as a pillar of fire and a cloud of smoke
 - (c) Fought their battles, such as Jericho

II. What Did They Get When They Got Saul?

- A. NOTE: Saul was not ALL bad.
 1. He was the Lord's anointed.
 2. He did fight battles and set up altars.
 3. He apparently raised a fine son, Jonathan.
- B. They got a good looking king--outwardly (1 Sam. 9:1-2).
 1. They, like us, want something that has a good appearance.
 2. Remember Eve saw the forbidden fruit was good to look at.
- C. They got a sense of "renewal" when Saul won a battle (1 Sam. 11:14-15).
 1. We get excited over something new.
 2. Wait until the newness wears off.
 3. Careful: something else "new" will come along.
- D. They got a king who lead the people in sin by sacrifice (1 Sam. 13:1-14).
 1. Fighting the Philistines.
 2. Waited for Samuel to come and offer the sacrifice.
 3. Saul offered the burnt offering, not Samuel (v. 9-12).
- E. They got a king who lost the kingdom (1 Sam. 13:13-14).
 1. They got a king who acted foolishly.
 2. Saul was not a man after God's heart, probably seeking more his own ends.
 3. They got a king who did not keep what the Lord had commanded--much like the people themselves.
- F. They got a king who led the people to disobey God; the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15).
 1. God's plan was to utterly destroy Amalek as a nation: it's peoples, and animals (v. 2-3).

2. Saul led the people to defeat Amalek.
 3. Saul and the people spared king Agag and the best of the flocks (v. 8-9).
 4. The Lord's regret (vs. 11).
 5. This "mercy" was actually rebellion and disobedience before God (vs. 21-23).
 6. Saul's sin
 - a. confessed (v. 24-25).
 - b. the kingdom torn from Saul (v. 26-28); given to David.
 - c. Saul still wanted the respect of those whom he led (v. 30).
- G. They got a king who lost contact with God.
1. Samuel would not speak to Saul any more (1 Sam. 15:34-35).
 2. God did not answer Saul, who had previously been inspired (1 Sam. 28:6).
 3. Saul consulted with a spirit medium (1 Sam. 28:3-25).
 - a. Good point: had removed the mediums and spiritists (v. 3).
 - b. Bad point: in disguise, he consulted a medium (vs. 7-19).
 - (1) Saul promised no punishment, though, as king, he was to enforce God's law against sorcery.
 - (2) Do we consult the mediums? astrology? palmists? gazers? TV-psychics? Are you seeking the future when you eat your "fortune" cookie?
 - (3) Cf. Queens and Kings, Presidents who do the same.
 - c. Samuel appeared to the woman, reaffirming the kingdom was torn from Saul and given to David (v. 17).
- H. They got a king who died a humiliating death (1 Sam. 31).
1. Losing a battle against the Philistines.□
 - a. Israel's soldiers forced to flee (v. 1).
 - b. Sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malachi-shua killed (v. 2).
 2. Saul and his armor bearer (v. 3-5).
 - a. Saul injured by archers.
 - b. Saul took his life.
 - c. Armor bearer did likewise.
 3. Saul's body displayed by the enemy (v. 9-13).
 - a. Decapitated.
 - b. Weapons sent throughout the land of the Philistines.
 - c. His body fastened to a wall.
 - d. Finally buried by some valiant men.
 - e. Saul's dishonor was the nations' dishonor.

- I. Israel left God for a King who Left God.
 1. Their choice was a reject of God.
 2. Their king was not a man after God's own heart.

III. Why we may want.

- A. We are not near to the beginning of our salvation experience.
 1. We are generations from the time of Jesus.
 2. We are generations from the time of the Apostles.
 3. We are generations from the time of miracles and spiritual gifts.
 4. We are generations from the time of inspiration, and the giving of the NT.
- B. Rejecting God's plan leaves us like sheep without a shepherd.
 1. We will look for something to fill the void.
 2. We are likely to turn from God's way when it does not seem relevant to us.
 3. We really need to seek God's way, but instead we seek things like the "nations" around us.
 - a. We too might say, "Give us a king...."
 - b. We're really saying give us something else, Lord.

CONCLUSION PART ONE:

According to time, perhaps continue into second lesson, "I. A God Like the Nations Around Us."

1. More to come, directed at us.
2. Think about the lesson of warning, example, that we who think we stand should take heed lest we fall.
 - a. We can become unhappy with God and His revealed ways.
 - b. We can come up with innovations replacing God's ways.
 - c. AND God will let us go that way to destruction.
3. Jesus is God's way, truth, life (John 14:6).
 - a. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus.
 - b. We'd better have the right "king" Jesus in our lives.
4. Jesus' way is: Belief and Baptism.
 - a. Have you accepted that message and obeyed Him?
 - b. Or, have you rejected the message for a message like the nations around us?

INTRODUCTION PART TWO

1. Review Israel's desire for a King.
2. Review Saul as a man not after God's own heart.
3. Review why WE might feel ready to bring innovations to God's way. Remind of Nadab and Abihu; Uzzah who touched the Ark.
4. This lesson is not about some king 3,000 years ago. It is about us in the 20th/21st Centuries.

BODY: Give Us a King (II)

I. We may want:

A. A "God" Like the "Nations" Around Us.

1. A Father-in-Heaven like the nations around us.
 - a. Some Want:
 - (1) a different God than that of the OT--too warring.
 - (2) a God of love only with no punishments.
 - (3) to believe that "we" are "gods" (New Age) and need not answer to any higher power.
 - (4) Some live like the atheist, as if there is no God (cf. Rom. 1:20-21).
 - b. We need to believe and obey:
 - (1) One God and Father of all... (Eph. 4:6).
 - (2) God the Apostles said we must obey rather than men (Acts 5:29).
 - (3) The God who calls us to repent and who will judge all men by a man, Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31).
 - c. Careful lest we seek a God like the nations around us.
2. A "Jesus" like the nations around us.
 - a. Some want:
 - (1) A Jesus who will not condemn anyone;
 - (a) approved everything done with a good conscience
 - (b) a "lovie-dovie" Jesus
 - (2) A Jesus who was merely a man, albeit a good man, a great philosopher.
 - (3) A Jesus who did not rise from the dead.
 - b. We need the Jesus who
 - (1) said "believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1).
 - (2) who WAS raised from the dead; He is our hope (1 Cor. 15:13-14).
 - (3) offers us salvation from sins as His name implies: Jeh(ovah) saves--He will save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21).
 - (4) is not "another Jesus" (cf. 2 Cor. 11:4).

- c. Careful lest we seek a Jesus like the nations around us; He is the "one Lord" of Eph. 4:6.
- 3. "Holy Spirit" like the nations around us.
 - a. Some views:
 - (1) a mystical non-being spirit behind every living thing.
 - (2) a Spirit that gives private revelations (interpretations) of Scripture as men ask for them.
 - (3) a Spirit that causes the Pentecostal experience even today.
 - b. We may see some of these views, and tend to want to adopt them for ourselves.
 - c. We need:
 - (1) to listen to the revelation already given by the Spirit (Heb. 2:3-4).
 - (2) to be renewed by the Holy Spirit when we are regenerated by washing (Tit. 3:5; cf. John 3:5, 7).
 - (3) await the resurrection of our bodies by the Spirit's power (Rom. 8:11).
 - d. We do not need another Spirit (cf. 2 Cor. 11:4).
- B. A "Bible" like the (denomi)nations around us.
 - 1. I am not talking about new translations.
 - a. But I'd say beware of paraphrases under the guise of a translation.
 - b. I would also warn against some translations--but that is not my point here.
 - c. I would also warn about many of the notes in the "study Bibles" available.
 - 2. Some have offered other "holy books":
 - a. Book of Mormon
 - b. Science and Health with a Key to the Scriptures
 - c. Koran
 - d. Bhagavad-Gita
 - e. Book of the Dead
 - f. Mahayna (Buddhist)
 - g. I Ching
 - h. Tao Te Ching
 - i. Gnostic Writings and Gospels
 - 3. Others have edited the Scriptures.
 - a. Every so often a new edited version comes around.
 - (1) Reader's Digest, leaving out many "boring" parts.
 - (2) Jesus Project with colorful notes trying to guess at what parts are Jesus or his disciples, as if none of it is inspired.
 - b. No doubt some think they are doing us a favor.

4. Still others offer a Creed book to establish Scripture.

5. We need:

- a. the Scriptures that equip us for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16).
- b. the Scriptures that if handled accurately will not leave us ashamed before God (2 Tim. 2:15).
- c. the Scriptures that contain the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).
- d. the Scriptures that were preached by the Apostles (1 Pet. 1:23-25), allowing some to be born again.

C. A "Gospel" like the (denomi)nations around us.

1. REMEMBER: Needing another "gospel" (or any other point) is a rejection of God (cf. 1 Sam. 8:7).
2. Some want/offer:
 - a. Social Gospel
 - (1) Pointing less to heaven than to heaven-on-earth.
 - (2) Making the church--as the church--the body for social changes: stop racism, feed and clothe the poor, educate children, bring hospitals to poor countries.
 - b. Faith-only Gospel
 - c. Others -can-act-to-save-us Gospel
 - (1) Parents have babies "baptized" (actually sprinkled).
 - (2) Mormon "baptize" to save the dead.
3. We need to preach and obey the simple gospel:
 - a. Matt. 28:18-20
 - b. Mark 16:15-16
 - c. This is the "one faith" of Eph. 4:5
4. LISTEN CAREFULLY: Gal. 1:8-9
 - a. To preach another gospel will cut you off from God.
 - b. To receive another gospel will cut you off from God.
 - c. Anathema; cut off; used as disfellowship

BREAK HERE IF A THIRD LESSON IS WANTED. REVIEW SAUL, AND POINTS OF SECTION 2, REPREACH POINT E (ABOVE) ON GOSPEL, AND MOVE TO FOLLOWING POINTS.

- D. A "Church" Like the (denomi)nations Around Us.
1. Some want/have:
 - a. Many social events: avoiding financial disaster day; mother's day; dad's day; sporting teams
 - b. Special non-biblical holy days: Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter
 - c. Unbiblical ways of raising funds: bake sales, garage sales, running businesses, schools, bingo or other gambling events, carnivals, selling books and tapes calling funds received "donations"
 - d. Unscriptural (NT) ways of worship: instrumental music, burning incense or candles, mass as a re-sacrifice of Jesus, worship accepted if offered by a priest
 - e. Unscriptural organization: earthly headquarters, women elders (also women preachers), bishops, cardinals,
 2. When we want to be like them we are leaving God's pattern for the church; we are rejecting His rule in our lives.
 3. We need the church of Christ's design, that...
 - a. calls itself by terms (names) in the scriptures:
 - (1) church of God, church(es) of Christ, □ church of the firstborn one(s), church of (a location; city, country)
 - (2) NOTE: even the expression "the Lord's church" is not found used in scripture, though probably implied; let us call it by scriptural expressions.
 - b. is built on Christ, not Peter (Matt. 16:18).
 - c. subject to Christ (Eph. 5:24), not making its own laws and creeds.
 - d. is pure (Eph. 5:27)
 - (1) teaching a practicing righteousness
 - (2) restoring those who are unspiritual (Gal. 6:1).
 - (3) putting some out occasionally (as per 1 Cor. 5).
 4. To do otherwise is to reject God's plan, just as Israel did when selecting Saul.

E. A "Preacher" Like the (denomi)nations around us.

1. Some want:
 - a. Preacher is Pastor.
 - b. Youth or other specialty ministers
 - c. A "Charismatic" (in the new sense) Preacher.
 - (1) maybe with a great hairdo
 - d. Well liked and respected by civic leaders.
 - e. Maybe a part of the town's evangelical association of clergymen.
 - f. THEY like
 - (1) "preacheritis"
 - (2) cf. 1 Cor. 1:12, Paul, Apollos, Cephas, Christ
 - (3) Christ divided
2. Need more men like
 - a. Paul
 - (1) description (2 Cor. 10:10).
 - (2) sermonizing nothing special (1 Cor. 2:1-5).
 - (3) Fools for Christ's sake (1 Cor. 4:9-14).
 - b. Oh, yes Paul was a prisoner at times! Could we support one like that?
 - c. Pray that I can be an imitator of Paul as he is of Christ.

F. A "Morality" Like the Nations Around Us

1. Blind to dangers of...
 - a. modern dancing
 - b. social drinking, smoking or other drug use
 - c. divorce and remarriage for "any cause"
 - d. gambling
 - e. These vices are have long been in the world, have crept into the denominations and are well on their way in the church.
2. What ARE some of the vices of the "nations" (Gentiles) around us?
 - a. 1 Pet. 4:1-5
 - b. 1 Cor. 6:6-9
 - (1) IN THE CHURCH!
 - (2) shall not inherit the kingdom of God
3. Situation Ethics: the new morality is the old immorality.
4. We want to live like the world.
 - a. We'll have lives like the world.
 - b. We'll have churches like the world--if any at all.
5. Beware of the Love of the World (1 John 2:15-17).
 - a. Beware of the world in the church while the church is in the world.
 - b. NOTE: a boat in the water is OK; water in the boat is disastrous.

c. We need to "come out" (2 Cor. 6:14, 17).

G. A "Hope" Like the Nations Around Us.

1. Some have hope:
 - a. to retire and move to FL or Arizona.
 - b. in reincarnation, getting better karma each time through.
 - c. just to end life's weary travels (Sadducees?).
 - d. some have no hope (nihilism).
2. Eph. 4:5 says there is one hope.
3. It is the hope of resurrection to eternal life.
 - a. hope of salvation (1 Thess. 5:8).
 - b. hope of eternal life (Tit. 1:2; 3:7).
 - c. Paul: Acts 23:6; 24:15-16
4. Is this your hope?
 - a. Will you find it asking for something from the nations or denominations around us?

CONCLUSION:

1. We'll Be Like the Nations Around Us
 - a. We may think a different church, God, Jesus, or Morality will fight our battles for us.
 - (1) easier to convert people to Christ
 - (2) easier to keep people faithful to Christ
2. Those who preach a different gospel are anathema to God.
 - a. Come Out
 - b. Peculiar people, means God's own possession.
3. These "Wants" Are a Rejection of God's Reign (cf. 1 Sam. 8:7).
4. We May Get What We Ask For.
 - a. Israel got Saul and his follies.
 - b. We may get worse; eternal punishment.
5. Invitation Song: S.S. #480 "Have You Counted the Cost?"