

Message #19**I Samuel 8:10-18**

Many years ago there was a preacher from North Carolina whose name was Josiah Elliott. He preached for over 50 years in small country churches. He prayed and prayed that God would give him a city church. In fact, he prayed that God would let him have just one city church. But God's answer was "no." In the course of his ministry there was a boy who lived in the back woods of the Blue Ridge Mountains who came to his church. His name was George Truett. George Truett would eventually end up in Dallas, Texas, and became pastor of the first Baptist church in Dallas for over 40 years. That church grew from 700 members to over 7,800 members. Josiah Elliot never got his wish but he did the will of God, and through his ministry came a man who not only would have a city ministry, but a worldwide ministry.

There is no better place to be than where God wants you to be. But there is no worse place to be than out of the will of God. When one purposes to disobey God's word and will, the end result will be disaster.

People have a choice to make: either obey God or don't obey God. Most of the time God will let people make their choice. Sometimes He will intervene, but most times He permits people to make their choice. What people don't realize is if they disobey God, the end result will be disaster.

That is exactly what happens here in I Samuel. Samuel was getting old and it was nearing a time for him to step down. God's people were not content with having God's man lead them. They wanted more than just a Bible teacher, they wanted a king. So God says, "Okay, you will have a king but you will also have a disaster."

The lesson to see here is this:

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE DISOBEY GOD'S WARNINGS, THEY WILL SUFFER SEVERE CONSEQUENCES PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, FINANCIALLY AND SPIRITUALLY.

This is the main point of these verses. Israel would get what she wanted, but what she wanted would end up dominating her in a negative way until Jesus Christ finally comes to Personally reign. There are still negative effects of this to this very day.

God spells this out to Israel. In fact, in **verse 9**, when He tells Samuel to "tell them of the procedure," he uses a word that refers to tell them of the customary conduct of what a king will do and what will happen.

Verse 10 sets the stage for all of this. God warns His people through Samuel of the consequences of wanting a king rather than just His man. The person God wants leading is a person who knows His word that He has appointed and who will communicate that word accurately.

Samuel was God's appointed man-prophet and he communicated to the people what God wanted, but that was not good enough. They wanted a king, not a man of God.

What is most interesting about this is that God used prophets to speak to kings. God used prophets who knew God's word to speak to the political leaders. It is a shame that a modern day political leader doesn't surround himself with men who truly know the word of God. Most political leaders surround themselves with all kinds of religious people, but frankly very few of them actually know the Scriptures in a rightly divided way. Just think about this; most politicians surround themselves with people who claim to be religious like a Jesse Jackson or Paula White, who could not exegetically rightly divide any text of Scripture.

What this passage teaches us is what happens to us in the future depends largely upon our willingness as God's people to listen to the word of God in the present time. God does give gifted men to the church who are able to rightly divide Scripture, and it is the job of the people to hear the word and obey the word. If they do that, they will receive many blessings. If they don't, there will be negative consequences.

Now God uses Samuel to give three warnings to Israel:

WARNING #1 – God warns the people of what a king will do. **8:11-17**

As we look down through these verses, there are two key words that are repeated in this warning that tell the story. **The first word is the word “take” (8:11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17). The second word is the word “best” (8:14, 16).**

By using these two words, God gives people a basic understanding of political science. Government operates by a desire to take from people. They want to take your best. The more you have the more they want to take. This is what happens to any society that does not govern itself by the word of God.

Now a monarchy king presents real problems to a nation. You have one family controlling things. A father is replaced by a son and on and on and eventually someone gets into power who is godless and ruthless. That is the way it works.

Now in this text, God lays out six specific actions a king would take:

Action #1 - A king would recruit their sons for his own purposes. **8:11-12**

What a king would do is to use their sons for his own military purposes (**8:11-12a**); for his own agricultural purposes (**8:12b**) and for his own manufacturing purposes (**8:12c**).

Do not overlook the important prepositional phrase “for himself.” He is not primarily interested in God's will or the people's will; he is interested in his own will.

A king is a politician who is not primarily interested in the people doing the will of God; he is interested in them doing his will. Most politicians in office all want the same thing. They are not primarily interested in the will of God; they are primarily interested in their own will.

Now carefully notice what is said in **verse 11**, this king will “place them.” In other words, he would draft them and appoint them to various positions and responsibilities according to his will, not God’s will. Their sons would have no say in the matter.

Some would drive chariots, some would ride horses and some would be runners. Runners were very important to military life (II Sam. 15:1; I Kings 1:5). Sometimes these runners would run ahead before the chariots to scout out areas. Other times they would take communications from place to place in difficult terrain.

When you are in the military you can lose your life. In the Canaanite military world, men from the lower classes were made runners and men from the higher classes were the charioteers. This is exactly what King Saul did. He kept his eyes open for any person who was skilled and attached him to his own staff (I Sam. 14:52).

Some sons were used for plowing fields and reaping the harvest and others for making military equipment. The point is having a king meant he would force sons to leave home and do what he wanted them to do.

Action #2 - A king would recruit their daughters for his own purposes. **8:13**

The king would also take their daughters. He would use them to make perfumes and cook and bake. A perfumer was one who compounded spices and perfumes to invent pleasant aromas.

This shows you the absolute foolishness of Israel. They wanted their own man and not God’s man even when it would cost them their own sons and daughters.

We are not far removed from this today. God’s word clearly teaches that children should be taken to worship and brought up in the fear of the Lord. Children should sit under the word of God. But the vast majority of people don’t do that. As a result, they are losing their own sons and daughters.

Action #3 - A king would take a percentage of everything the people have. **8:14-15**

This is so sad because now instead of just giving to God, a king demands you give to government. They would be forced to give a portion of their crops, their grapes, their olives to the king and his staff. He would take a percentage of everything. Politicians are welfare recipients. They live and mooch off the people.

The king would demand the “best” (**8:14, 16**). The best was supposed to go to God and not the king.

Action #4 - A king would take a percentage of their labor force. **8:16**

Instead of the servants and animals being used to enhance the life of the Israelite families, the king would use them for his own purposes. They would use them to build houses and roads and fortresses. They would use them for tilling the land.

Now why in the world would a nation want this? Why wouldn't you want God directing a nation by His word? The reason why they wanted this is because this is what the rest of the world had.

Action #5 - A king would take a percentage of their flocks. **8:17a**

Just think of this; God is telling these people that if you have a king he will not only take your sons and daughters and servants, but he will take 10% of all your flocks. You would think the people would say, "No way." Let us let God lead us through His prophet and His word.

Action #6 - A king would take away their freedom. **8:17b**

Here is the worst of all; a king will make the people his servants. When people give their allegiance to something other than God and His word, they eventually will become enslaved. The people will not find the freedom for which they are looking; they will find a nightmare.

This is what a king would do.

WARNING #2 – God warns the people of what the people will do. **8:18a**

George Mueller lived by asking three questions:

- 1) Is this the Lord's work?
- 2) Is this the Lord's way?
- 3) Is this the Lord's time?

Unfortunately, the people did not ask that question. Samuel predicted that the people would eventually come to realize that they had made a horrible mistake and they would cry out to God. These same people who wanted this king would eventually want their freedom back and would cry out to God for it.

Samuel was warning these people that if they wanted a king ruling them other than God, they would eventually come full circle and would realize they have made a terrible mistake.

When a person purposes to do the opposite of what God wants, they are following their feelings and in the end, they will ask "What have I done?"

WARNING #3 – God warns the people of what God will do. **8:18b**

God says you did not want Me or My word, so I won't listen to you. You blatantly turned your back on My word and will, so when you cry out to Me, I will not listen.

When God's people purpose to disobey God, the end will be total and complete disaster.