

# THE GOSPEL PROJECT – CHRONOLOGICAL

## A KINGDOM *established*

### GOD THE KING

### *When We Demand A King*

Throughout the summer, we will be looking into the kingdom that was established over the nation of Israel during Old Testament times. In the days of Moses, God foretold that the people would eventually ask for a king to rule over them. **Deuteronomy 17:14 (ESV)**<sup>14</sup> *“When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me, That demand for a king would come because of selfish reasons – that is the desire to be like other nations. “God’s people” are to be “different” from “people of the world.”* **1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)**<sup>9</sup> *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

God is our King, and our desire should be for Him to rule over our lives – directing our hopes and dreams and all that we are. **Psalm 47:7 (ESV)**<sup>7</sup> *For God is the King of all the earth...!* When the Israelites did choose an earthly king, God’s design was for them to choose a king who would lead the nation according to God’s laws. According to David Jeremiah, Israel would eventually have 43 kings over a period of 450 years. Only eight of those kings would follow the LORD. The human leaders of the nation would create more problems than they would solve.

Last week’s lesson concluded with the Ark of the Covenant being taken from the Israelites by the Philistines. The Philistines ‘taking over’ of the Ark did not work out well for them as recorded **1 Samuel 5**. It is actually a quite humorous story. You should read it for yourself! Everywhere they moved the Ark misery came upon the inhabitants. They were ravaged with tumors to the point that the Ark was returned to the Israelites. And even the Israelites were not exempt from the power of the Ark of God. God struck Israelites dead who were disobedient to the law by looking inside the Ark. But, then the people repented and put away their false gods and Samuel judged Israel going to the different cities as needed but always returning home to Ramah. As the years passed, a new generation emerged in Israel with new leaders who had new ideas some which involved thinking that the grass just might be greener on the other side.

When we demand a king, we admit that God is not enough for us.

**Read 1 Samuel 8:1-5 (ESV)**<sup>1</sup> *When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel.*<sup>2</sup> *The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.*<sup>3</sup> *Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.*<sup>4</sup> *Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah*<sup>5</sup> *and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”*

Israel during the time of the judges was a loose confederation of sovereign tribes, and each tribe was expected to seek the LORD and do His will on their own. Believing that Israel needed a stronger central government, the elders presented a request to Samuel for a king and backed it up with what they considered to be legitimate arguments.

Argument 1: Samuel was getting too old for the job. At this time I cannot scripturally verify this, but biblical time lines put Samuel around the age of 60 years old at this juncture in his career – not that old compared to Abraham and Moses in their work for the LORD. The age complaint was just an “excuse” for the leaders to manipulate the situation to their own liking. Even though the ‘leadership, set Samuel aside, he would still be used by the LORD to anoint two kings and to bring communications directly from God to their first king because of his disobedience.

Argument 2: Samuel’s sons were not doing what was right. This complaint was legitimate. Last week, we learned how the priest Eli was too easy on his sons and they chose wickedness over righteousness. We can only speculate why Samuel’s sons did not follow the LORD because the scripture does not say why. Perhaps Samuel was away from home too much, but, on the other hand, Samuel’s sons may just have chosen to do wrong no matter what. Was Samuel’s sons lack of integrity a legitimate reason for appointing a king? I don’t think so. Think of how the LORD had intervened and replaced Eli’s wicked sons.

Argument 3: They wanted a king for the purpose of being like everyone else. The Israelites were supposed to be different from other nations. As for us today, we are supposed to be different from the world as well. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** <sup>17</sup> *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

**Read 1 Samuel 8:6-9 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup> *But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. <sup>8</sup> According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”*

The Israelites continually rejected the King of Heaven. That rejection was plain at Sinai when God’s people chose to worship a golden calf. The people’s pattern of rejection of the LORD God Jehovah as King continued throughout the time of the Judges. **Judges 2:11-12 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> *And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup> And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger.*

Let's fast forward to the New Testament and recall their ultimate rejection of King Jesus. **John 19:15 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> *They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."*

God is never surprised by what people do. God had promised Abraham, Sarah, and Jacob that kings would be among their descendants and Jacob had named Judah as the kingly tribe. Moses prepared the nation for a king when he spoke to the new generation preparing to enter the Promised Land. Therefore, it wasn't Israel's specific request for a king that was a sin; it was their insisting that God give them a king NOW. God's timing is everything. When we choose to run ahead of God's timing, we will suffer the consequences of our own choices every time.

When we demand a king, we open the door to enslavement.

**Read 1 Samuel 8:10-18 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> *So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. <sup>11</sup> He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup> ... some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest... <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks... <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards... <sup>15</sup> He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards.... <sup>16</sup> He will take your male servants... and your donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup> He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup> And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."*

From this Life Application Study Bible chart you can see the specific scriptures where Samuel's prophecy would be fulfilled.

<b>The Problems With Having a King</b>		
<i><b>Problems (warned by Samuel)</b></i>	<i><b>Reference</b></i>	<i><b>Fulfillment</b></i>
Drafting young men into the army	8:11, 12	<b>1 Samuel 14:52</b> —"So whenever Saul observed a young man who was brave and strong, he drafted him into his army."
Having the young men "run before his chariots"	8:11	<b>2 Samuel 15:1</b> —"Absalom bought a chariot and horses, and he hired fifty bodyguards to run ahead of him."
Making slave laborers	8:12, 17	<b>2 Chronicles 2:17, 18</b> —Solomon assigned laborers to build the temple.
Taking the best of your fields and vineyards	8:14	<b>1 Kings 21:5-16</b> —Jezebel stole Naboth's vineyard
Using your property for his personal gain	8:14-16	<b>1 Kings 9:10-14</b> —Solomon gave away 20 towns to Hiram of Tyre.

Demanding a tenth of your harvest and flocks	<a href="#">8:15</a> , 17	<b>1 Kings 12:1-16</b> —Rehoboam was going to demand heavier taxation than Solomon.
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This study of the people’s demand for an earthly king is much more than an Old Testament history lesson. The study brings us to the very personal question: “Is Jesus Lord of my life?”

In a sermon David Legge tells this story, “Hanging in a Berlin Gallery is a most unusual art piece by the artist Menzies, it is called 'The Unfinished Painting'. The artist, as is quite clear, was portraying the King and his generals, but it took him such a long time getting the painting under way that he actually died in the midst of creating this piece of art. All that he has really achieved is the detail of the generals round the King, but there's a great void, a great gap in the centre of the picture right where the King should be - the central character. All there is, is a blank!” We must search the portrait of our lives to discover if we are leaving blank the place where Christ should be? **1 Timothy 1:17 (ESV)** <sup>17</sup> *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

When we demand a king, we look just like everyone else.

**Read 1 Samuel 8:19-22 (ESV)** <sup>19</sup> *But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us,* <sup>20</sup> *that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”* <sup>21</sup> *And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD.* <sup>22</sup> *And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey their voice and make them a king.” Samuel then said to the men of Israel, “Go every man to his city.”*

The people ignored Samuel’s warning. He had been in direct contact with the King of Heaven since he was a young boy and yet they failed to listen to his wisdom – considering him to be ‘just an old man’ now. Their response to Samuel: *that we also may be like all the nations* reminds me of a child’s response to a parent ‘but everybody else is doing it.’ And I can still hear my own mother’s response to that comment, ‘but you are not everybody else!’

I think it is interesting that Samuel repeated the people’s words back to the LORD. It is not like the LORD didn’t already know what they had said. I think it just helped Samuel to get the burden off his own chest. In fact what Samuel did reminds me of the old hymn, Tell It to Jesus. Are you weary, are you heavy hearted? Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus. Are you grieving over joys departed? Tell it to Jesus alone.

In the midst of our busy lives, there are times when we need to just step back and realize that this world is not all ‘about us.’ Our focus should be all about Him – meaning the King of this world and the King of the world to come. So I ask you, “Who is King in your life”? Is it you? Is it money? Is it power? Is it entertainment? It is your family? It is your job? Can you heard the voice of the Lord whispering, “Today, choose for yourselves a king.”