

# GIVE US A KING

## 1 SAMUEL 7-11

Text: 1 Samuel 8:6

### **1 Samuel 8:6**

<sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

Introduction:

The Ark of the Covenant was now out of enemy hands and resting in the house of Abinadab. Shiloh had been destroyed by the Philistines and was no longer the location of the sanctuary of the Lord, and many years would pass before the Ark would be moved to Jerusalem by King David (1 Chronicles 15).

But having the Ark in Jerusalem didn't automatically solve Israel's problems, because during the twenty years while the Ark was in Abinadab's house a new generation arose and was crying out for radical changes in Israel's government.

Up until to now, the people of Israel had looked to God as their King, but now they asked the Lord to give them a king just like other nations.

It has been said, “Looking at others will often result in undesirable results.” Someone has also said, “Be careful what you ask for, you just may get it.”

That was the case with Israel.

Note:

## **1. SEEKING THE LORD (1 SAM. 7:3-17)**

Samuel knew that the people were restless and wanting change, and he knew that times of transition bring out either the best or worst in people.

Samuel knew one thing – king or no king, the nation could never succeed if the people didn’t put the Lord first and trust only in Him.

That’s why he called for this meeting in Mizpah and he challenged them to return to the Lord.

A. They removed their false gods (vs. 3-4)

### ***1 Samuel 7:3-4***

*<sup>3</sup> And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. <sup>4</sup>*

*Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.*

B. They confessed their sins (vs. 5-6)

***1 Samuel 7:5-6***

*<sup>5</sup> And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.*

C. They prayed for God's help (vss. 7-11; 13-14)

***1 Samuel 7:7-11***

*<sup>7</sup> And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. <sup>8</sup> And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines. <sup>9</sup> And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him. <sup>10</sup> And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them;*

*and they were smitten before Israel. <sup>11</sup> And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar.*

### ***1 Samuel 7:13-14***

*<sup>13</sup> So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. <sup>14</sup> And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.*

## **2. REJECTING THE LORD (1 SAMUEL 8:1-22)**

Probably twenty or twenty five years passed between the events in chapter 7 and here in chapter 8.

Samuel was now an old man, about to pass from the scene, and a new generation had emerged with new leaders who had new ideas.

Life goes on, and circumstances change and God's people must have wisdom to adapt to new challenges without abandoning old convictions.

## A. Asking for a king (1 Samuel 8:1-22)

### 1. The logic (1-5)

The people request a king because Samuel is old, his sons are corrupt, and the surrounding nations have kings.

However when they ask for a king “like other nations” they were forgetting that their strength was to be unlike the other nations.

### 2. The lamentation (6-9)

Samuel was a man with spiritual insight and he knew that this demand for a king was evidence of spiritual decay. They weren't rejecting Samuel, but were rejecting God.

### 3. The liability (10-22)

Samuel explains the consequences of allowing a king to rule over them.

Forced military service

Slave labor

Taxes

In spite of the warning they still demanded a king.

Close

Pleasing the Lord wasn't a thing of priority in their minds; what they wanted was guaranteed protection against their enemies. They wanted someone to judge them and fight their battles, someone they could see and follow.

They found it too difficult and demanding to trust an invisible God and obey His wonderful Word.

In spite of all the Lord had done for them they turned their back on God and chose to follow frail man.