

Community Bible Fellowship Church

Cedar Fields - A Bible Fellowship Church

February 10, 2008

The 100 Essentials: Part 6 – 1 Samuel 8

Longing for a King

A Longer than Usual **SERMON**

Theme: Israel wanted a king of their own choosing – not the Lord God.

Aim: God has given us a king – Himself. Truly converted hearts want Him to reign in their lives. Do not rebel against His Kingship to your own demise and to the disgrace of His name.

Do you have Jesus as Savior but not as King and Lord?

You want to be saved but you do not want to be ruled.

1. Long for Perpetual Leadership – A Royal Line

Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.

1 Samuel 2:12

For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.

1 Samuel 3:13

Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. (His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

Men learn from men. A community of men need godly example; it is not okay to be slack with your sons; it is not just your personal affairs; it effects the whole community.

We long for a royal line to continue godly leadership and find it in Jesus.

2. Long for the Popular Life

What is popular is not always right and what is right is not always popular.

Problem is people demand a king in a worldly way: "like the nations all around us."

Isn't that like us? "just like the nations" – cannot have God as King and be just like the world;

cannot serve two masters; we want to have Christianity and Christ as Lord & King and worship gods of this world: prestige, preeminence, popularity, pleasure, performance.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?

Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

James 4:4

But the problem is you cannot serve two masters!!!!

The Lord is not fooled by the people: neither is He fooled by you.

And 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. 1 Samuel 8:7

3. They were Longing to Replace the Lord

They have rejected me: Numbers; Jeremiah; Romans 1 and 1 Corinth 2.

As 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.

1 Samuel 8:8

Forsaking God leads inevitably to serving other gods.

And visa-versa, serving other gods inevitably leads to forsaking the Lord God.

4. Their Longing Leads to Problems in Life.

When we forsake God, sometimes He lets us go that way so we see the foolishness of it.

Refused to obey voice of Samuel – so God "obey their voice and make them a king. But solemnly warn them" Voice of reason.

[This answers questions about hell. How could God send them? Well, in many ways this is what the people decided and God says, "Listen to them. Give them what they want. They don't want me. So they don't have to have me."]

Deuteronomy 17 compared to 1 Sam 8:8-18 - just the opposite!

The whole scope of biblical history, this passage sets up the rise and fall of the nation of Israel. King after king after king, the first to the last, each king, no matter how good, even Solomon in all his splendor, fails to bring about the promises of God for His people.

The people brought about their own demise and therefore disgraced the name of the Lord God.

Your kings will fail you. You were warned. But your stubborn unrepentant independent proud hearts still insist on crowning your own kings rather than submit and enjoy the Kingship of Christ. Just like Israel: No matter what system of rules and regulations, leadership and civil government, judges and prophets and priests there is a never-ending failure to bring about God's purposes and promises through these systems and the people. The kings of your life will not bring blessing either.

5. Their Longing Does Not Impede the Lord's Promises

Our foolishness, worldliness, rebellion and sin will not impede God ultimately keeping His covenant promises by raising up the offspring of Eve and of Abraham and establishing Him as King through whom all the nations of the world will be blessed.

The Lord God will not abandon His people. Why? Because of something in us? Not especially.

No, what generates self-perpetuating love and grace and mercy for His people is His own namesake – His own glory. God is motivated to prove Himself great through the blessing of His people.

READ 1 Samuel 12

6. Just like Samuel, the godly faithful long to pray and teach and learn.

Therefore, to not pray for God's people or teach them right and wrong is to sin against God Himself – not particularly or primarily His people.

For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.

1 Samuel 12:22-23

Prayer and Preaching/teaching are powerful ministries which bring about the purposes of the King.

This is Samuel's heart's chief concern – God's reputation.

The people's rebellion and rejection of God and the mess that that brings would reflect on God's character. They would become a disgrace to His Name, His reputation.

Where are your heart's affection?

Here's where they are – in what you pray for. What you learn and teach.

The Christian heart which is conquered and under the rule of the King of Kings would pray for the people of the Kingdom and learn of His ways.

Are you in a small group? How's your prayer life?

As created beings, all people yearn for the order and pristine beauty of the Garden again. As redeemed citizens of heaven, we long for the King to return bring that order and beauty back.

We all long for the Return of the King.

We all long to belong to a new country, a new Kingdom where everything works right, power and order are balanced, there's justice and mercy, safety and benevolence; where we live in peace and prosperity.

Deep in our hearts we want the King to restore the Kingdom. Jesus is that King.

God has given us a King – it is Jesus Christ the God/Man who lived on earth 2000 years ago and presently reigns from the throne room in heaven.

God has given us a king – Himself. Truly converted hearts want Jesus Christ to reign in their lives. Do not rebel against His Kingship to your own demise and to the disgrace of His name.