

LONG LIVE THE KING!

1 Samuel 12:12-15

INTRODUCTION

- A. The greatest and most bloody revolutions in history have been fought over issues of leadership.
 - 1. France threw off her yoke of her monarchy in the revolution of 1789.
 - 2. The Americans fought for the right of self-governance, 1776.
 - 3. England, Germany, and Russia struggled to determine what form of government would be best.
 - 4. Princes, presidents, prime ministers, and priests have formed governments and attempted to lead nations.
 - 5. It appears, human beings are highly interested in how they will be lead.
- B. The Israelites struggled over this same issue.
 - 1. Many of the conflicts recorded in the Old Testament arise over the matter of leadership.
 - 2. Judges, prophets, priests and kings all tried their hands at managing the Israelites.
 - 3. From the time of Moses, through the judges, until the anointing of Saul, Israel argued over the best means of providing leaders for themselves.
- C. You would think that as God's people, we might listen more closely to Him who is our ultimate leader and King.
 - 1. God has always had a plan for providing His people with leadership.
 - 2. It is a means of transmitting His will and wisdom through agents He chooses.

I. "GIVE US A KING."

- A. The People Take Matters Into Their Own Hands, 1 Sam. 8.
 - 1. The surface issue: seemingly justified action!
 - a. Samuel is growing old and feeble, vs. 1.
 - b. He appointed his sons as judges after him, vss. 1-3.
 - c. The people do not like his arrangements and ask for a King instead, vss. 4-5.
 - 2. The deeper issue:
 - a. These people do not act out of a sense of moral outrage, but out of a lack of faith.
 - i. They weren't content to let God give them leaders.
 - ii. They wanted a king – like everyone else, 8:5, 19-20.
 - b. *"They have rejected Me as their King"*, vs. 7-8.
 - i. Forsaking God to serve other gods.
- B. Saul is Chosen as King, 1 Sam. 9-11.
 - 1. 9:15-17; 10:1 – Saul is chosen by God and anointed by Samuel.
 - 2. 10:22-24 – Saul is crowned before the people of Israel.
 - a. The nation gathers at Mizpah, 1 Sam. 10:18-19.
 - b. Tribe: Benjamin; clan: Matri; family: Kish; Saul.
 - 3. Chapter 11 – The people acknowledge Saul as King.
 - a. He gathers an army and marches to rescue Jabesh-Gilead.
 - b. The people acclaim him as king, vss. 14-15.
- C. Samuel Makes Clear the Issues Involved, 1 Sam. 12.
 - 1. God has always provided leaders for His people, 1 Sam. 12:6-11.
 - 2. By taking matters into their own hands, they have usurped God's authority and rejected Him as King, 1 Sam. 12:12-13.
 - 3. They should be careful not to reject God's leadership altogether!
 - a. **1 Sam. 12:14-15.**
 - b. Even here, it is not Saul they are warned to obey.

- c. God is still God, even if He is not still King.

II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND “KINGS”.

A. God is Responsible for Raising Up Leaders.

1. He provided leadership during the wilderness wanderings.
 - a. Moses – called by God from the burning bush, Ex. 3.
 - b. Joshua – commissioned by God before all the people, Num. 27:22.
 - c. Judges – chosen by God as the need arose.
 - d. All of God’s leaders were selected, not by election or succession or contests of strength, but by the will of God. Raising up leaders was not the people’s task, but God’s.
2. God continued to provide leadership during Samuel’s time.
 - a. Samuel – the book opens by God intervening to raise up a “*faithful priest, who will do according to what is in My mind and heart*” (1 Sam. 2:35).
 - b. Saul.
 - i. Even when the people asked for a king, God still reserved the right to choose the man.
 - ii. Saul was God’s choice, not Israel’s, 9:17.
 - c. David.
 - i. Even when a King was enthroned, God determined who would succeed him, 16:1, 12.
 - ii. The kingdom was given to David, not Jonathan.
3. God raises up leaders for His people. It is no one’s task but His to determine who will govern.

B. God Also Takes Responsibility for Rejecting Leaders.

1. This happened with the Priests.
 - a. Eli is a leader rejected by God.
 - i. He condones his sons, 1 Sam. 2:22-25, 29.
 - ii. God rejects him and promises to raise up a “*faithful priest*”, 1 Sam. 2:35.
 - b. Samuel replaces him, 3:19-21.
2. This also happened with the Kings.
 - a. Saul is a leader rejected by God.
 - i. He disobeys God’s commands.
 - a. About sacrificing, 1 Sam. 13:8-10.
 - b. About the spoils of battle, 1 Sam. 15:9.
 - ii. God rejects Saul’s leadership and promises to appoint a new leader.
 - iii. 1 Sam. 13:13-14
 - b. David replaces him.

CLOSING

A. God is Our Leader.

1. No matter the structure of our human authority, God is still the one in control.
2. We are responsible ultimately to follow His lead.
3. Ephesians 1:20-23

B. What do we allow to take the place of God, our King?

1. Examples:
 - a. Rich young ruler (wealth), Luke 19:18-25.
 - b. Pharisees (pride), Mark 12:38-39.
 - c. Family, job, etc., Luke 9:57-62.
2. Our own lives: Luke 6:46; 1 John 2:3-6