

XIV. THE TRAGEDY OF WORLDLINESS (pt.1): 1 Samuel 8

QUESTION. Why study the book of 1 Samuel?

A.I) The book of 1 Samuel is in the Scriptures, therefore God wants us to know it (Deuteronomy 29:29).

- "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (**Deuteronomy 29:29**).

A.II) The book of 1 Samuel is God-breathed, therefore it is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

- "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

A.III) The book of 1 Samuel is the Lord Jesus' family history (Matthew 1:5-6).

- "and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king." (**Matthew 1:5-6**).

A.IV) The book of 1 Samuel will help us see our need for a true Prophet, Priest, and King (1 Corinthians 10:11).

- "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction..." (**1 Corinthians 10:11**).
- This will become evident as we study this book.
- **We need a Prophet who lives longer than Samuel, a Priest better than Eli, a King better than Saul, and we have one. His name is Jesus!**

A.V) The book of 1 Samuel will help us delight in Jesus all the more, who is the true King, the true Son of David (John 5:39).

- "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (**John 5:39**).
- **Come with me and search the book of 1 Samuel, seeing that it ultimately testifies about Christ!**

CONTEXT. The book of 1 Samuel begins about 1140 B.C. and moves us from the time when God's people had Judges to when they have Kings. It ends about the year 1055 B.C.. The book of Judges repeatedly says, "There was no king in

Israel and everyone did what was right in their own eyes." 1 Samuel shows us the beginning of the founding of the Throne of David, which the LORD promises will have a King whose reign will never end.

Now, 1 Samuel can be divided into 3 basic parts with three different characters being the main focus of each part. I want to show you this before we dig back into this book so you can see the forrest before we examine the trees. We need to see the trees but we do not need to miss the forrest because of them.

Textual Block	Primary Focus	Summary Section
1 Samuel 1-7	Samuel	1 Samuel 7:15-17
1 Samuel 8-14	Saul	1 Samuel 14:47-52
1 Samuel 15-2 Samuel 8	David/I	2 Samuel 8:15-18
2 Samuel 9-20	David/II	2 Samuel 20:23-26
2 Samuel 21-24	Kingdom	

**In 1 Samuel 1,
In 1 Samuel 2,
In 1 Samuel 3,
In 1 Samuel 4,
In 1 Samuel 5,
In 1 Samuel 6,
In 1 Samuel 7,**

SPECIFIC CONTEXT. 1 Samuel 7:15-17.

I. EXPOSITION (1 Sam. 8:1-22).

1 Samuel 8

Israel Demands a King

1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. 3 Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah 5 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." 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. 7 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." 8 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. 9 Now then, obey their voice;

only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

Samuel's Warning Against Kings

10 So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king from him. 11 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. 12 And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. 15 He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. 16 He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. 18 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."

The Lord Grants Israel's Request

19 But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, 20 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." 21 And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. 22 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."

QUESTION 1. What can we learn from this chapter of Holy Scripture?

ANSWER. You and I can learn a great deal about *worldliness* from 1 Samuel 8.

BOYS AND GIRLS, Christians are not meant to be like those who do not love Jesus. Christians have been saved from the penalty and power of sin by Jesus. He has saved us to live a different life than the world, for His glory. Christians are and must be different from those who are not Christians.

QUESTION 2. What is worldliness?

ANSWER FROM 1 SAMUEL 8.

(i) Worldliness is when you trust in a different king or deliverer than the LORD, or **(ii)** When you want to blend in with the world instead of be distinct from it, or, still yet, **(iii)** When you look to your own feelings and logic rather than the wisdom that comes from God through His Word.

DOCTRINE. Worldliness is a temptation believers must both identify and put to death or else tragedy will surely strike.

OUTLINE. I want to point you to three marks of worldliness from this text so you can identify them and put them to death in your life by God's grace.

I. WORLDLINESS IS WHEN YOU TRUST IN A DIFFERENT KING OR DELIVERER THAN THE LORD.

I) The people of Israel in 1 Samuel 8 rejected the Lord God as their King to rule them.

- **1 Samuel 8:7** "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."

Q. And why did they want a king just like the nations?

II) They rejected the Lord God as their King not only to rule them but also to deliver them.

- **1 Samuel 8:19-20** "19 But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, 20 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."
 - **1 Samuel 12:12** "And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God was your king."

USE FOR EXAMINATION

Q1. Who or what are you trusting in to *rule* you?

Q2. Who or what are you trusting in to *deliver* you from your internal or external enemies?

USE FOR EXHORTATION

Watch out for the temptation to worldliness in trusting in a different King or Deliverer than Christ!

- **Psalms 146:3-4**
"3 Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish."

Nothing and no one must ultimately rule you but Christ Jesus!

- "[God the Father] put all things under [Christ's] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him

who fills all in all" (Ephesians 1:22).

Nothing and no one can ultimately deliver you from sin and sadness but Christ Jesus!

- "In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace," (Ephesians 1:7).

Here is a great point about the gospel of Jesus Christ:

Everything and everyone you trust in outside of Christ is both unwilling and unable to save you from your sins and sadness; Christ, on the other hand, is both willing and able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him.

- **BOYS AND GIRLS**, Jesus is both willing and able to save you. Confess your sin, turn from sin, trust in Jesus to save you, be baptized, then join the church to walk with God's people for His glory the rest of your life. Then when you die you will be happy and holy with Jesus and all His people forever!

[RECAP OF POINT I]

WORLDLINESS IS WHEN YOU TRUST IN A DIFFERENT KING OR DELIVERER THAN THE LORD. Therefore watch out for the temptation to worldliness in trusting in a different King or Deliverer than Christ!

II. WORLDLINESS IS WHEN YOU WANT TO BLEND IN WITH THE WORLD INSTEAD OF BE DISTINCT FROM IT.

1 Samuel 8:5 "Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations."

[RECAP OF POINT II]

WORLDLINESS IS WHEN YOU WANT TO BLEND IN WITH THE WORLD INSTEAD OF BE DISTINCT FROM IT. Therefore watch out for the temptation to worldliness in wanting to blend in with the world rather than be distinct from it.

III. WORLDLINESS IS WHEN YOU LOOK TO YOUR OWN FEELINGS OR LOGIC RATHER THAN THE WISDOM THAT COMES FROM GOD THROUGH HIS WORD.

- **1 Samuel 8:19** "But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, 'No!'"

[RECAP OF POINT III]

WORLDLINESS IS WHEN YOU LOOK TO YOUR OWN FEELINGS OR LOGIC RATHER THAN THE WISDOM THAT COMES FROM GOD THROUGH HIS WORD. Therefore watch out for the temptation to worldliness in wanting to look to your own feelings or logic rather than the wisdom that comes from God

through His Word.

CLARIFYING APPLICATION

- I)** You need to look to Christ as your Savior and King, not men.
- II)** You are meant to be holy and different, not the same as the world.
- III)** You need holy wisdom from God's Word, not whatever you feel or think is right.

IN CONCLUSION LET ME SAY THIS.

Even though Israel demands a king like the world in their sin, God sovereignly is working to establish the Davidic Kingdom that will be promised to the Lord Jesus Christ and will never end.

Take heart, believers. Even when you sin, God overrules it for His glory and His peoples ultimate good.

DOCTRINE. Worldliness is a temptation believers must both identify and put to death or else tragedy will surely strike.

May God give us the grace to keep our eyes fixed on Christ and to continually put to death the temptations to worldliness.