

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Now it came to pass when *Samuel was old* that he made his sons judges over Israel
 - a) INTERESTINGLY: Samuel is around 60 at this time, but is regarded as being old
 - 1) He has been actively serving the Lord the majority of his life
 - 2) He had been raised in the tabernacle, married upon reaching young manhood, had been traveling throughout Israel preaching, had called the nation to repentance, prepared the people to revolt against the Philistines, and after their successful resistance of the Philistines, had been established as a Judge
- II) HE IS NOW: Around sixty years of age, and desires to divide his duties up amongst his sons
 - a) His activities have caused him to become tired, and he desires help for the care of the people
 - 1) He appoints his two sons judges in Beer-Sheba, *57 miles south of Ramah* where Samuel lived
- III) REMEMBER: Samuel did much of his ministry near his home in Ramah, which is north of Jerusalem
 - a) As he was growing older, he wanted to make sure that the areas to the south were cared for
 - 1) Who else would be better to have care for the people than his own sons?
 - 2) They were supposed to be a good influence in an area that was in the region of the Philistines
- IV) V2 THE NAME: Of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second Abijah they were judges
 - a) Samuel's sons had interesting names, which would reveal the heart of their father
 - 1) JOEL: The LORD is God
 - 2) ABIJAH: Jehovah is my Father
 - 3) Jezebel, Satan, Judas, and Lucifer (Pure, Beloved, God will increase, Grace)
- V) V3 BUT: His sons did not *walk in his ways* they turned aside after *dishonest gain*, took *bribes*
 - a) IN ISRAEL: The judges were responsible to make sure that justice was served
 - 1) When situations called for intervention, the judges were to hear the cases and make decisions
 - 2) IMPORTANT: The first duty of a judge was to execute righteous judgment
- VI) THIS MEANS: That he was to be *impartial*, not favoring the rich or the poor
 - a) The judge represented God, and was to make sure that justice was served, *without preference*
 - 1) They were to care for the least in society: the widows, orphans, and the defenseless
 - 2) Lev 19:15 You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.
 - 3) Dt 16:19 You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.
- VII) SADLY: Their desire for money led them to pervert justice
 - a) Samuel's sons were not righteous men and did not walk in his ways
 - 1) Pr 23:26 My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.
 - 2) Hosea 14:9 Who is wise? Let him understand these things. *Who is prudent?* Let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.
- VIII) THIS IS ONE REASON: Why *greedy people* should not be placed in a position of power
 - a) They can use their office to line their own pockets and cannot be trusted: it is so obvious!
 - 1) 1 Sa 24:13 As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.'
 - 2) Mt 7:18-20 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.
 - 3) It is foolish to trust human government: Geithner, Daschle, Killefer, Solis: 9,000 PORK earmarks

- I) **THIS IS:** Why I normally ignore actors and musicians who criticize the salaries of CEO's
 - a) They are pretty much in the same boat
 - 1) **LIKE LENNON SAID:** Imagine no possessions I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people Sharing all the world
- II) **V4-5 THEN:** All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him
 - a) These were the chiefs and heads of families in Israel
 - 1) They gather together and come to see Samuel, as they are rejecting his sons
- III) **V5 THEY SAID:** Look you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways Now make us a king
 - a) **SAMUEL'S SONS:** Were guilty of greed, and taking bribes and the people hated this
 - 1) They knew that it was wrong for them to do so
 - 2) Dt 27:19 Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.
And all the people shall say, `Amen!'
- IV) **V5 YOUR SONS:** Do not walk in your ways
 - a) As godly as Samuel was, his sons chose to walk in a different manner than he
 - 1) Many a godly father or mother has ended up with children who reject the ways of the Lord
 - 2) You cannot force a child to trust in God, you can only do your best to encourage them
 - 3) Jn 6:37 All whom the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.
- V) **V5 THEIR SOLUTION:** Make us a king to judge us like all the nations
 - a) Samuel's advanced age and the sinfulness of his children have given them reason for this request
 - 1) In their history, they had seen many kings who ruled over their people
 - 2) They lived in an area that was known for kings ruling over people, and they desired this
- VI) **THIS IS SOMETHING:** Already anticipated by God and He made provisions for it
 - a) Not because He approved of such a desire, but in recognition of such an action
 - 1) Dt 17:14-15 When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, `I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me, you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.
- VII) **V6 BUT:** The thing displeased Samuel when they said Give us a king to judge us So Samuel prayed
 - a) They asked for a king, but did not first ask God in prayer
 - 1) **CASTING CROWNS:** What if His People Prayed
What if His people prayed And those who bare His name
Would humbly seek His face and turn from their own way
And what would happen if we prayed For those raised up to lead the way
Then maybe kids in school could pray And unborn children see light of day
What if the life that we pursue Came from a hunger for the truth
What if the family turned to Jesus and Stopped asking Oprah what to do?
- VIII) **FACT:** This is something they should have done first, before approaching Samuel with their request
 - a) They thought they were just asking for what had already been promised!
- I) **KEY:** Samuel saw that this amounted to a formal renunciation of the Divine government

- a) He could see that they were rejected God and asking for man to rule over them
 - 1) HIS RESPONSE: He begged to know His mind in this important business
 - 2) Their request grieved and angered him because the people obviously had not learned anything

- II) THIS: Instructs me about what I should do when I am confronted with something that displeases me
 - a) I should take the concern to the Lord, in prayer and not just react in frustration
 - 1) Samuel could have taken it personally, even been hurt, but his concern was deeper

- III) V7-9 AND: The LORD said to Samuel Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you
 - a) God says, allow them to have a king and I will use it to chasten them
 - 1) They do not want a king to govern them, under My law as I have prescribed
 - 2) Dt 17:18-19 It shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes
 - 3) APPLICATION: This is what I look for when voting, someone closely aligned to His word

- IV) V8-9 ACCORDING: To all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them out of
 - a) They are rejecting God, and His rule over them through His prophets and priests
 - 1) Ps 81:11-12 My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would *have* none of Me. So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels

- V) V10-18 SO: Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king
 - a) He will rule over you, take your sons for soldiers, set them to labor in his lands, have them produce military equipment for him
 - b) He will make your daughters his cooks and maidservants
 - c) He will take your land, and give them to his servants
 - d) He will take your produce and animals for himself, as well as your servants
 - e) He will take your animals for himself, and you will become his servants

- VI) V18 AND; You will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves
 - a) You get the kind of ruler you deserve
 - 1) Once you get him, you reap the consequences of such a decision
 - 2) This is someone you chose, and is someone you asked for
 - 3) Ps 106:15 He gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul

- VII) V19-22 NEVERTHELESS: The people refused to obey the voice of Samuel and they said No
 - a) His counsel and concern were rejected because the people were bent on their own desires
 - 1) Their hearts are revealed clearly in their response

- VIII) V20-21 THAT: *We also may be like all the nations* and that our king may judge us and go before us
 - a) We want to be like everybody else: we will use the pagan nations as our models for government
 - 1) Though we say In God We Trust, we will forget which God we are trusting in!

- I) SADLY: God granted their request but it was not to their advantage
 - a) God would still guide the nation, but it will be indirectly through the prophet and judge

- 1) Though they will have a king, God will not use him to communicate, but will use the prophet
 - 2) The king will accept or reject God's guidance through the prophet as he chooses
- II) V22 SO: The lord said to Samuel Heed their voice and make them a king
- a) Samuel yielded to their request, and they were about to be given their first king: Saul
 - 1) Hosea 13:11 I gave you a king in My anger, And took him away in My wrath.