

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Now it came to pass when **Samuel was old** that he made his sons
At this time, Samuel was around 60-70 and was regarded as being old
Ps 90:10 Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- II) Interestingly the average lifespan for American men is 76.5
The average lifespan of an American woman is around 81
Men die earlier because they want to
AT THIS POINT
- III) Samuel faithfully and actively served the Lord throughout his life
He was raised in the tabernacle, married as a young man, had children, traveled
throughout Israel preaching repentance, prepared the people to defeat the Philistines,
and after defeating them was established as a Judge over Israel
- IV) He is around sixty or so, and he decided to divide his duties between his sons
He has become tired, and he needs help for the care of the people
- V) He appoints his two sons as judges in Beer-Sheba
Beer-Sheba was in the **southern** part of Israel, serving as the S border
Ramah was **north of Jerusalem** around 57 miles north of Beer-Sheba
- VI) Samuel did much of his ministry near his home in Ramah, north of Jerusalem
As he aged, he wanted to make sure that the areas to the S were cared for
Who would be better to have care for the people than his own sons?
- VII) They were to be a good influence in an area that was inhabited by Philistines
- VIII) V2 His firstborn was **Joel** and the name of his second **Abijah** they were judges
Samuel's sons had names that would reveal the heart of their father
Joel: The LORD is God
Abijah: Jehovah is my Father
Carin (Virtue), David (Beloved) Joseph (he will increase) Anna (Grace)
Marie is derived from Miriam, which means bitter or rebellious
- IX) Though Joel and Abijah has significant names, they did not live up to them
- X) V3 His sons did not **walk in his ways** they turned aside after dishonest gain, took

- I) In Israel the judges were responsible to make sure that justice was served
The judges were to hear the cases between disputants and make decisions
IMPORTANT
- II) The first duty of a judge was to execute righteous judgment
This meant that he was to be impartial, not favoring the rich nor the poor
- III) The judge represented God, and was to make sure impartial justice was served
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.
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.
- IV) They were to care for the least in society: widows, orphans, and the defenseless
IN THE CASE OF SAMUEL'S SONS
- V) Their desire for money led them to pervert justice
Samuel's sons were not righteous men and did not walk in his ways
- VI) This is one of the duties of the father: to train up his children to live righteously
Pr 4:1 Listen my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain knowledge
Pr 4:20-22 My son pay attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not lose sight of them; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to the whole body.
Pr 23:26 My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.
- VII) These rebellious sons rejected to example and teachings of their godly father
They were like to ungodly sons of Eli, Phinehas and Hophni, who were judged
They took bribes and perverted justice, violating God's commands
APPLICATION
- VIII) This is one reason greedy materialists should not be given a place of power
They can use the office to line their own pockets, and obviously can't be trusted
1 Sa 24:13 As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.'
- IX) This is why I normally ignore entertainers who criticize the salaries of CEO's
They are pretty much in the same boat
Pelosi has a net worth of \$230-311 million on a salary of around \$193,000.00

- I) V4-5 All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and s
These were the chiefs and heads of families in Israel
They gather together and come to see Samuel, as they are rejecting his sons
- II) V5 Look **you are old** and your sons **do not walk in your ways** Now make us a king
As godly as Samuel was, his sons chose to walk in a different manner than he
- III) Many a godly father or mother has ended up with children who reject the Lord
You cannot force a child to believe, you can only do your best to encourage them
- IV) We do our best to train them in the ways of the Lord, but it is up to them to believe
WHAT WAS THEIR SOLUTION
- V) V5 Make us a king to judge us like all the nations
Samuel's advanced age and the sinfulness of his children fueled this request
- VI) In their history, they had seen many kings who ruled over their people
They lived in an area known for kings ruling over people, and **they desired this**
- VII) This desire was already anticipated by God and He made provisions for it
Not because He approved of such a desire, but in recognition of such a request
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.
- VIII) V6 The thing displeased Samuel when they said Give us a king to judge us
They asked for a king, but did not first ask God in prayer
- IX) This is something they should have done before approaching Samuel in this way
They thought they were just asking for what had already been promised!
- X) Samuel saw that this as a renunciation of the Divine government
He could see that they were rejecting God and asking for man to rule over them
HIS RESPONSE
- XI) V6 He prayed, asking to know God's mind in this important business
Their request angered him because the people had not learned anything

- I) This shows us what to do when confronted with something that displeases us
I should take the concern to the Lord, in prayer and not just react in frustration
He could have taken it personally, even been hurt because they rejected him
- II) In asking for a king they were saying to him we don't want you to be our judge
We do not really trust your leadership and we have rejected your sons
- III) We want a different kind of ruler: we want to have a king over us
We want to be a nation under human rule
- IV) He could have taken it personally, but his concern was deeper
They were dishonoring God, rejecting his ministry and following the world
He took it to God in prayer, asking God to direct him in this
- V) V7-8 The LORD said to Samuel Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to
God says, allow them to have a king and I will use it to chasten them

THE TRUTH IS

- VI) They do not want a king to govern them, under My law as I have commanded
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

APPLICATION

- VII) This is what I look for when voting, someone closely aligned to His word
What is the stance on abortion, gender, sexuality, 2nd amendment, immigration
- VIII) V8-9 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought
They have rebelled against Me and My servants from the beginning
- IX) They reject God and His rule over them through His prophets and priests
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
- X) V10-18 Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a
He told them what in fact was waiting for them
The king would not judge them with kindness, but would end up abusing them

- I) He will rule over you, take your sons for soldiers, set them to labor in his lands, have them produce military equipment for him
He will make your daughters his cooks and maidservants
He will take your land, and give them to his servants
He will take your produce and animals for himself, as well as your servants
He will take your animals for himself, and you will become his servants
- II) V18 You will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for
You get the kind of ruler you are asking for, and that you deserve
- III) Once you get him, you will reap the consequences of such a decision
Remember: This is someone **you** chose, and is someone **you** asked for
Ps 106:15 He gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul
- IV) V19-20 The people refused to hear the voice of Samuel and they said No
His counsel was rejected because the people were bent on their own desires
Their hearts are revealed clearly in their response
- V) V20-21 That we also may be like all the nations and that our king may judge us and
We want to use the pagan nations as our models for government
- VI) Though we say In God We Trust, we will forget **which God** we are trusting in!
APPLICATION
- VII) We forget our foundations as a nation are fundamentally Christian in worldview
The Pilgrims arriving here were seeking religious freedom
The First College, Harvard (1646) was established to train Christian ministers
Some religious group or denomination established the first *126 colleges*
Of the 55 signers of the Constitution all but 3 were orthodox church members

VIII) MANY DO NOT KNOW

The 1st act of Congress authorized printing 20,000 Bibles to evangelize Native Americans

George Washington's farewell address included these words:

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, *religion* and *morality* are indispensable supports...Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion...Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

I) In 1814, Francis Scott Key was on a diplomatic mission to try and free an American Doctor held captive aboard the flagship of the British fleet, which was sailing in the Chesapeake Bay. He was captured and was forced to watch the British attack on Fort McHenry in Sept of 1814. After a night of shelling, he was stirred to see the American Flag still waving in the morning breeze. This so inspired him that he wrote the song that became our national anthem. Most of us are somewhat familiar with the first stanza, but listen to the second: Remember, this is our National Anthem

O! Thus be it ever when free men shall stand Between their loved home and the war's desolation;

Blessed with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just; And this be our motto, "In God is our trust!"

And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave Over the land of the free and the home of the brave!

II) Sadly, God granted their request but it was not to their advantage
God would still guide them, but it will be indirectly through the prophet and judge

III) Though they will have a king, God will not use him to communicate to Israel
He will communicate, but will do so through a prophet
The king will accept or reject God's guidance through the prophet as he chooses

IV) V22 SO: The lord said to Samuel Heed their voice and make them a king
Samuel yielded to their request, and they were about to be given a king: Saul

V) He will prove to be an unworthy choice, by the people
Hosea 13:11 I gave you a king in My anger, And took him away in My wrath.