

5/21/95

To Rule, You Must Be Ruled
Deut. 17:14-20

Moses was a prophet like no other to whom God spoke to face to face and not in dark speeches. He is said to of been the meekest man on the earth. The one who had been used to deliver Israel.

But now he is coming to the end of his life and is preparing the children of Israel to posses the land so he proclaims to them God's requirements for a King who would rule over them.
17:14-20

The proclamation is marked by three important elements.

- I.** The prophetic announcement of a King. vs. 14-15
- II.** The prohibitions for a King. vs. 16-17
- III.** The priorities of the King. vs. 18-20

I. The prophetic announcement of a King. vs. 14-15

- A.** The time would be when they would come into the land. vs. 14a-b
 - 1.** They had spent 430 years in Egypt.
 - a.** The first years were good to them as Joseph was second in command in Egypt.
 - b.** Then there rose up a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph.
 - 2.** They had been delivered by the mighty hand of God.
 - a.** God judged the gods of Egypt to show that they indeed were no gods.
 - b.** God judged the first born from the house of Pharaoh to the least in Egypt.

- 3.** They had wondered in the wilderness for forty years.
 - a.** A year was spent at mount Sinai while they received the Ten commandment, the judgments, the statutes and the pattern for the tabernacle.
 - b.** A refusal to enter the land came shortly thereafter, being in fear of the inheritance of the land.
 - c.** A death march of the greatest proportion filled the next 38 years.
- 4.** They were now ready to enter the land and begin it's conquest.
 - a.** The crossing of the Jordan River would mark the beginning of the life of faith that would need to be continued in the land.
 - b.** Jericho would mark their potential victories as they trusted and obeyed God.
 - c.** Ai would mark their defeats if they trusted in themselves.

- B.** The request would come from the people. vs. 14c-d
 - 1.** The time would come when they would think they outgrew God and knew better. "I will set a King over me".
 - 2..** The time would come when they would desire to be like the people of the land, " Like all the nations that are around me".
 - 3.** The prophecy was fulfilled in Saul.
 - a.** The sons of Samuel were not walking with God but were going after dishonest gain, bribes, and perverted justice. 1Sam. 8:3
 - b.** The people came to Ramah and asked Samuel to make them a king in order to judge them like all the nations. 1Sam. 8:4-5

- c. Samuel was displeased and prayed to the Lord and God told him that they were not rejecting him but God, that He should no reign over them. 1Sam. 8:6-8
- d. Samuel went on to warn them of the cost to their sons, daughters and resources. 1Sam. 8:9-17
- e. Samuel speaking for God said, " And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves and the Lord will not hear you in that day". 1Sam. 8:18

C. The requirements would have to be met. vs. 15

1. The King who was to rule over them would have to be chosen by God.
 - a. Saul was the people's choice not God's.
 - b. Saul was a head taller than all, handsome and a Benjamin. 1Sam. 9:1-2
 - c. The people were pleased with the outward appearance but God looked at the heart.
 - d. The Lord chose David, a man after God's own heart.
2. The King to rule over them would have to be from among their brethren not a foreigner.
 - a. One of their own would identify with the people.
 - b. One of their own could alone secure them from betrayal.

Illustration

One day the younger of two sons said to his father, "Father give me the portion of goods that falls to me", and he went to a far country and wasted all his possessions with wasteful living, because he thought he was able to rule over his own life rather

than following God's ways and his Father's. But he soon found himself feeding pigs while he was hungry. Lk. 15:11-32

Application

1. The danger of time in every person's life is that we can come to a place after we have depended on God, overcome hard times and dwell in safety, that we desire to take hold of our own life and be our own kings.
 - a. We forget that we were slaves to sin without Christ.
 - b. We forget that what we have is due to what God has done for us and in us.
 - c. We think that we are partly responsible for what we have and are.
2. The desire is to be like all the other people who know not God.
 - a. Their seeming freedom is alluring.
 - b. Their seeming fun and temporary happiness is enticing.
 - c. Their seeming ability to escape consequences or even to be hurt or damaged are deceptive lies.
3. The only wisdom is to submit to the Kingship of Christ over our lives.
 - a. He has our eternal benefit in mind.
 - b. He has our temporary protection in mind.
 - c. He has our spiritual growth and development in mind.

The prophetic announcement of a King is a picture of each of us desiring to rule our own lives!.

II. The prohibitions for a King. vs. 16-17

- A. He was not to multiply horses to himself. vs. 16a
 1. Horses were equivalent to military power, remember when David had Joab number the men of Israel and God judged him. 2Sam. 24:2

2. Horses would bring about self confidence and pride.
 3. Horses would cause the King to get his eyes off God.
* Some trust in chariots and some in horses but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. Ps. 20:7
- B.** He was not to cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses. vs. 16b-d
1. Egypt is a type of the world.
 2. Egypt is the place of bondage in their past.
 3. Egypt is the place that divides the heart with the things of God.
 4. Egypt is a place that calls for compromise.
* God said they were not to return that way again!
- C.** He was not to multiply wives to himself. vs. 17a-b
1. God's ideal is proclaimed in Genesis, one man for one woman creating a home to reflect God's love, care and holiness. Gen. 2:24-25
 2. The problem of multiple wives is clearly recorded for us in the life of Jacob as they competed for him and he was forced to have favorites, causing discord and hatred within the home.
 3. The specific reason given is that these wives would turn his heart away from God.
- D.** He was not to multiply silver to himself. vs. 17c
1. The riches of money bring about many temptations, snares and foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 1Tim. 6:9
 2. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. 1Tim. 6:10
3. The rich young ruler went away sad when he was told by Jesus to go sell all that he had and give it to the poor because he had great riches. Mk. 10:21-22
 4. The prohibitions were fulfilled in Solomon. 1King 9-11
 - a. He multiplied horses by exporting them from Egypt as well as chariots and then sold them for a profit to all the kings of the Hittites and Syria. 1king 10:24, 28
* The ruins of the city of Megiddo reveals the large stable that Solomon had for his horses.
 - b. He multiplied wives to himself also.
 - 1) He loved many foreign woman, the daughter of Pharaoh, women of Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon and Hittites. 1kings 11:1
 - 2) He had 700 wives and 300 concubines and his wives turned his heart away from God when he was old. 1kings 11:3-4
 - 3) He served Ashtoreth, Molech and did evil in the sight of the Lord. 1kings 11:5-6
 - c. He multiplied silver to himself.
 - 1) The drinking vessels of Solomon were all of gold not of silver for it was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon. 1kings 10:21
 - 2) King Solomon surpassed all the king of the earth in riches and wisdom. 1kings 10:23

Illustration

God told Asa the king that as long as he was with the Lord , the Lord was with him but if he should forsake Him, God would forsake him. and God rebuked him for trusting in King Ben-Hadad despite the victories God had given him. The prophet

declared to Asa, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars". 2Chron. 15:2, 16:7-9

Application

1. Perhaps we don't multiply horses to ourselves to be self-sufficient apart from God but we do it in different ways.
 - a. We can trust in our abilities to be resourceful after the worldly manner that excludes God.
 - b. We can boast in our finances and assets to survive in later years.
 - c. We can worry constantly about losing what we have.
2. Perhaps some of us point people more to the world than the Lord by our example and speech.
 - a. There is no real difference between ourselves and the person who knows not God, except that we go to church.
 - b. The example of compromise that we give is duplicated in the life of others that call themselves Christians.
3. Perhaps our faithfulness to one husband or wife is only on the outside but not in heart.
 - a. You are living in regret of your marriage and wish you were married to another resulting in your heart being turned away from God.
 - b. You live as if you are single, having a nice arrangement with your mate and each of you do what you wish.
 - c. You live out your fantasies through their mate by imagining then to be someone else.

The prohibitions of self-sufficiency and compromise for a King are applicable to each of us!

III. The priorities of the King. vs. 18-20

- A. He was to be a man under God's authority. vs. 18
 1. When he sat on his throne he was to recognize that God put him there.
 - a. He was God's choice.
 - b. He was not perfect.
 - c. He was one like his brethren.
 2. When he sat on his throne he was to possess a copy of God's word in order to rule on God's behalf.
 - a. God alone knows the evil heart of man.
 - b. God alone knows that justice must have consequences or evil will prevail.
 - c. God alone could give such a marvelous document to be ruled by as His word.
 3. When he sat on his throne he was not to see a separation between the civil and spiritual, the priest would give him a copy of the same standard they possessed.
 - a. The law was given to Moses by God at Sinai.
 - b. The law was given to the people by the priest.
 - c. The priest gave the law to the king.
- B. He was to be a man of the word. vs. 19a
 1. The word was to be with him, at his access.
 - a. To be familiar with it.
 - b. To be resourceful with it.
 - c. To be one with it.
 2. The word was to be read and studied all the days of his life.
 - a. To grow in knowledge.
 - b. To develop in wisdom.

- c. To mature with age.
- d. To yield in God's love.

C. He was to be a man of God. vs. 19b-20

1. One who feared the Lord his God. vs. 19b
2. One who is careful to observe all the words of the law and the statutes. vs. 19b
3. One who is not lifted up above his brethren. vs. 20a
4. One who is not turned to the right or the left from the commandment. vs. 20b
5. One who prolonged the days of his kingdom and his children in the midst of Israel as evidence of God's favor and blessings. vs. 20c-d

Illustration

God appeared to Solomon one day and told him to ask whatever he wanted and he asked for an understanding heart to judge his people in order to discern between good and evil therefore God also gave everything else. 1kings 3:5-13

Application

1. If I am going to lead others I must understand that I am a man who is under authority, God's authority.
 - a. His authority over my life is absolute. Jn. 13:13
 - b. His authority leads me for my safety and good. Rom. 8:28
 - c. His authority is based on His word. 2Tim. 3:16-17
2. If I am to rule over my house in a loving manner as Christ over the church then I need to know God's word.
 - a. The word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Ps. 119:105
 - b. The word warns me of danger and destruction. Ps. 19:11
 - c. The word gives me wisdom for decision in life. Ps. 19:7

3. If I am going to lead people to Christ then I need to be thoroughly familiar with God's word.

- a. To give an answer to every man for the reason and hope that lies in me with meekness and fear. 1Pet. 3:15
- b. To run my home, love my wife and children. Eph. 5:21-33
- c. To be a benefit to my church. Heb. 10:24-35

The priorities of the King regarding the word of God are of the greatest benefits to all of us!

Conclusion

The proclamation of God's requirements for a King to rule over His people is marked by three important elements.

- I. The prophetic announcement of a King is a picture of each of us desiring to rule our own lives!.
- II. The prohibitions of self-sufficiency and compromise for a King are applicable to each of us!
- III. The priorities of the King regarding the word of God are of the greatest benefits to all of us!