

1/9/11

To Rule, Kings Must Be Ruled by God
Deut. 17:14-20

In order to understand the reason for the failure of the kings of Israel in 1-2 Kings, we must begin with God's revelation to Moses, regarding kings.

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

The context of Deuteronomy is that Moses is coming to the end of his life and is preparing the children of Israel to possess the land, not a second law, but rather the same law given to the second generation, who would possess the land of promise.

So Moses proclaims God's requirements for a King, who would rule over them, characterized by three things. Deut. 17:14-20

- 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 Israel would come into the land. vs. 14a-b

* "When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it."

1. Israel had spent 430 years in Egypt.
 - a. The first years were good, as Joseph was second in command in Egypt.
 - b. Then there rose a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph, the difficult days.
2. Israel 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 of the house of Pharaoh to the least in Egypt.
3. Israel had wandered 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. Israel was now ready to enter the land and begin its 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, trusting and obeying God.
- c. Ai would mark their defeats, if they trusted in themselves.

B. The request would come from the people of Israel. vs. 14c-d

* “and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me.’”

1. The time would come when Israel would think they outgrew God and knew better, indicated by the statement, “And say, ‘I will set a King over me.’” vs. 14c-d
 - 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 therefore 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 and God told him the people were not rejecting him, but God about God not reign over them. 1Sam. 8:6-8
 - d. Samuel went on to warn them of the high cost by describing the demands of the king by taking their sons,

daughters and a portion of all their 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
2. The time would come when they would desire to be like the people of the land, indicated by the statement, “Like all the nations that are around me.” vs. 14d
 - a. The people forgot so quickly they were not like all the other nations.
 - b. The people failed by comparing themselves to the other nations.
 - c. The people foolishly became envious of the other nations.
 - d. The people wanted to be like all the other nations.
 - e. The people disdained their uniqueness to other nations.
 - f. The people refused to obey the voice of Samuel, saying, “No, but we will have a king over us, that we may be like all the nations.” 1Sam. 8:19-20
 - 1) That their king judge them.
 - 2) The their king go out before them and fight their battles.
 3. The prophetic fulfillment was in Saul and proved to be a tragic mistake.
 - a. Saul was cowardly.

- b. Saul was vain and self-seeking
- c. Saul was self-willed and rebellious against God.

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. vs. 15a
* “you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses.”
 - a. Saul was the people’s choice, not the choice of God.
 - b. Saul was a head taller than all, handsome, a Benjamin. 1Sam. 9:1-2
 - c. The people were pleased with the outward appearance of Saul, but God looked at the heart.
 - d. The Lord chose David, a man after God’s own heart. 1Sam. 13:14
2. The King to rule over them would have to be an Israelite. vs. 15b-d
* “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.”
 - a. One from among them, living and knowing the mind and heart of the people.
 - b. One of their brethren, a descendant of one of the 12 tribes, of the seed of Abraham.

- c. One who was a foreigner, one not natural born as a Jew was not allowed to be their ruling king.
 - 1) As a foreigner he would have a different world view.
 - 2) As a foreigner, he would have greater allegiance to his native birth and people, undermining the nation of Israel.
 - 3) As a foreigner, he would be a tyrant, rather than a leader.
- d. One of their own could alone secure them from betrayal.

Illustration

We have a perfect example of President Barack Obama, who has declared that our constitution has an enormous blind spot, as did the framers, a fundamental flaw that continuous in this country to the present day”. He has also said, “that we are no longer a Christian nation.” Obama by his own words has declared to be wiser than all the signers of the Constitution and the Founding Father who signed the Declaration of Independence and the Framers of the Constitution, who were delegates to the Federal Convention, who took part in framing and drafting the proposed Constitution of the United States of America.

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.

* "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." 2Cor. 4:6-7

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 are deceptive lies.

* "Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out." Prov. 24:19-20

3. The only wisdom is to submit to the Kingship of Christ over our lives.

- a. He has our temporary direction and protection in mind.
- b. He has our spiritual growth and development in mind.
- c. He has our eternal benefit in mind.

* "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2Cor. 4:16-18

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. The King was commanded not to multiply horses. vs. 16a

* "But he shall not multiply horses for himself."

- 1. Horses were equivalent to military power and the ability to defend oneself.

- a. Remember when David had Joab number the men of Israel that God judged him. 2Sam. 24:2
 - b. “And Joab answered, “May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord’s servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?”
1Chron. 21:3
2. Horses would bring about self confidence and pride.
- a. “**Solomon** had four thousand stalls for **horses** and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.” 2Chron. 9:25
 - b. “And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.” 1Kings 10:26
 - c. “Also **Solomon** had **horses** imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king’s merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price.” 1Kings 10:28
 - d. “Now a chariot that was imported from Egypt cost six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse one hundred and

- fifty; and thus, through their agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.
1King 10:29
- * The ruins of the city of Megiddo reveals the large stable that Solomon had for his horses.
3. Horses would cause the King to get his eyes off God and trust in the strength of his military.
- a. “Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by **many** or by **few**.” 1Sam. 14:6
 - b. David said, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.” Ps. 20:7
- B. The King was commanded not to cause the people to disobey God by sending them back to Egypt to purchase military horses.
vs. 16b-d
- * “nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’”
1. Egypt is a type of the world.

- a. That rejects the one true God.
- b. That serves many gods.
- 2. Egypt is the place of past bondage.
 - a. They were slaves.
 - b. They were crying out to God.
- 3. Egypt is the place that divides the heart with the things of God.
 - a. The world appeals to your sin nature.
 - b. The world chokes out the things of God.
- 4. Egypt is a place that calls and caters to compromise.
 - a. The world condemns nothing evil.
 - b. The world offers everything opposed to God.
 - c. The world deceives the believer from the truth of God.
 - * God said they were not to return that way again!

C. The King was commanded not to multiply wives. vs. 17a-b

- * “Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away.”
- 1. God’s ideal is proclaimed in Genesis. Gen. 2:24-25
 - a. One man for one woman, a home to reflect God’s love, care and holiness.
 - b. One man and woman to enjoy each other sexually for life and no other.

- 2. The problem of multiple wives is very evident in the Scriptures.
 - a. The life of Jacob reveals the competition for him by his wives, resulting in jealousy and envy between them.
 - b. The children from the different wives brought about discord and hatred of heart within the home.
- 3. The specific reason given is lest these wives turn his heart away from God.
 - a. Solomon tempted himself to be disloyal to God by his sensual nature.
 - b. “But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites-- from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to

the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.” 1Kings 11:1-4

- c. “For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.” 1Kings 11:5-8

D. The King was commanded not to multiply riches. vs. 17c

* “nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.”

1. The precious metal of silver.
 - a. “All King Solomon’s drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was **silver**, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.” 1Kings 10:21
 - b. “For the king had merchant ships at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once

every three years the merchant ships came bringing **gold**, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.” 1Kings 10:22

- c. “Each man brought his present: articles of **silver** and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.” 1Kings 10:25
 - d. “The king made **silver** as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.” 1Kings 10:27
2. The precious metal of gold.
 - a. “Hiram the king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress and **gold**, as much as he desired.” 1Kings 9:11a-b
 - b. “Hiram sent the king one hundred and twenty talents of **gold**.” 1Kings 9:14
 - c. “And they went to Ophir, and acquired four hundred and twenty talents of **gold** from there, and brought it to King Solomon.” 1Kings 9:28
 - d. “Then she, the queen of Sheba, gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of **gold**, spices in great quantity, and precious stones.” 1Kings 10:10a-d
 - e. “The weight of **gold** that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and

sixty-six talents of **gold**.” 1Kings 10:14

- f. 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 able to do for ourselves in this world.
- b. We can boast and trust in who we know and their ability to help us in difficult times.
- c. We can be resourceful after the worldly manner that excludes God.

* “Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.” Prov. 3:5-7

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 does not know God, except that we go to church.
 - b. The example of compromise that we give is duplicated in the life of others and they call themselves Christians.
 - c. Perhaps our faithfulness to one husband or wife is only outwardly, but not in heart.
 - d. Perhaps you live in regret of your marriage and wish you were married to another, your heart be turned away from God.
 - e. You live as if you are single, having a nice arrangement with your mate and each of you do what you wish.

* “Wives, submit to your own **husbands**, as is fitting in the Lord. **Husbands**, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.” Col 3:18-19
3. Perhaps for others it is their material possessions.
 - a. We can boast in our finances and assets to survive in later years.
 - b. We trust in our resources, not really in God.
 - c. We can worry constantly about losing what we have.

- d. Now, there is nothing wrong in having material possession, in and of themselves.
- 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

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. The King was to be a man under God's authority. vs. 18
- * "Also 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."
1. When he sat on his throne he was to recognize that God put him there and write it himself.
 - 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. The King was to be a man of the word. vs. 19a
- * "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life."
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. The King was to be a man of God. vs. 19b-20
- * "that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.
- 1. One who feared the Lord his God. vs. 19b
 - a. The foundation, "The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Prov. 1:7
 - b. The first step, "The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Prov. 9:10
 - 2. One who is careful to observe all the words of the law and the statutes. vs. 19b

- a. By reading the word.
 - b. By studying the word.
 - c. By understanding the word.
 - d. By living the word.
- 3. One who is not lifted up above his brethren. vs. 20a
 - a. Not forgetting that all he is, was due to God.
 - b. Not forgetting he was one of the people.
 - c. Not forgetting he was to serve the people.
 - 4. One who is not turned to the right or the left from the commandment. vs. 20b
 - a. To keep him in line with the word God.
 - b. To be led by the will of God.
 - c. To be an example of a man of God.
 - 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
 - a. To provide a visible example of the power of God.
 - b. To encourage a walk of faith with God.

Illustration

Priorities, if you are going to war, you do not spend the next six month training on how to fix

lawn mowers, if you are going parachuting, you do not buy a back-pack to jump out of the plane.

* If you are a Christian, you need to grow, develop and mature, under God's word and authority

Application

1. If I am going to lead others, I must understand that I am a man under authority, God's authority.

a. His authority over my life is absolute.

* "If you love Me, **keep** My commandments. Jn. 14:15

b. His authority leads me for my safety and good.

* "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28

c. His authority is based on His word. 2Tim. 3:16-17, 2Pet. 1:20-21

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 confirm it by my home, love for my wife and children. Eph. 5:21-33
- c. To be a benefit to my church. Heb. 10:25
* "not **forsaking** the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

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 characterized by:

- 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!