

I Samuel 8-10 –20 January 2022

“The Awkward Kingdom”

Introduction

*I Samuel can be divided into 3 sections

*The instigation of earthly kingship (Chap 1-7)

*Focus on Samuel

*The failure of earthly kingship (Chap 8-15)

*Focus on King Saul

*God’s man chosen & tried (Chap 16-31)

*Focus on David to be king

*II Samuel – depicts the entire reign of King David

*Chap 4-7 was saw the capture of the ark, by the Philistines & God’s power over it all

*That’s what leads them to beg for a king over them

*Their eyes are on the enemy’s power instead of God’s

*God’s always wanted theocracy for them, not a kingdom

*Today we see establishing of the awkward Kingdom

*We do the same thing – when we set our eyes of the enemy instead of God, we gin up ways to govt & regulate ourselves that were never God’s intentions

***Today, the 5 principles of the awkward kingdom**

1st principle is that it begins by replacing pursuit of God's Kingdom w/ an earthly kingdom (Chap 8:1-9)

Read Chap 8:1-3

1. Every man needs to choose the Lord for himself, there's no second-hand salvation
2. Some leave the wise path b/c of the trials; some leave it b/c of the allure of good earthly things

Read Chap 8:4-6

1. Their desire? Godly king, not Samuel's sons
 - a. It's bad to have your eyes on how other nations do it
 - b. It's good to desire godly leaders, but not a king (Read Deut 17:14-20)
2. Very thing they want to avoid (leaders that just build their own kingdom) is what they're making

Read Chap 8:7

1. When you're serving the Lord, & people turn against you, they've really turned against God

2. They should exercise faith & serve God alone

Read Chap 8:8-9

1. They forsake God & turn to idols, now they forsake Samuel the Judge and turn to a king
2. God will give them what they want, but this clearly isn't what is best for them
 - a. You can ask long enough that God give you 2nd best
 - b. Faith trusts God to provide, whereas fear takes matters into its own hands

2nd principle is that it's caused by not believing the Word of God (Chap 8:10-22)

Read Chap 8:10-13

1. Problems w/ having a king
2. He'll build a central govt by taking your people

Read Chap 8:14-17

1. He'll tax your livelihood
2. You'll lose personal liberties

Read Chap 8:18

1. God says thru Samuel, "You'll regret this"
2. The theme, 'He will take, he will take, he will take, and you will cry'
3. They've refused to believe the Word of God as spoke in Deut 17:14-20

Read 8:19-20

1. Their problems is that they simply refuse to believe the Word of God
 - a. From Deut 17:14-20
 - b. And thru Samuel right now! (See vs 10)
2. Root of our problems always come to a lack of believing God thru His Word

Read Chap 8:21-22

1. Same as when the Lord gave Balaam what he wanted, NOT B/C IT WAS WHAT WAS BEST

3rd principle is that God moves thru very natural ways for His will (Chap 9:1-27)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Kish was a man of great wealth & Saul was ruggedly good looking
2. What's missing from this whole introduction to Saul is any mention of God in Saul's life, just the physical

Read Chap 9:3-5

1. Took long time & they couldn't find the asses

Read Chap 9:6-10

1. So they're gonna ask God thru a man where the asses are at & pay the Seer (Man of God –Samuel)
2. This isn't a bribe, just a polite gesture

Read Chap 9:11-14

1. So they come to Samuel at Zuph in Ephraim
2. This is where the custom of blessing God in prayer before eating comes from

Read Chap 9:15-17

1. God told Samuel to anoint Saul as King to reign over Israel & deliver them from Philistines
2. So God has orchestrated this meeting of these 2

Read Chap 9:18-20

1. Saul immediately gets his asses answer AND told that he will be king...out of the blue!
 - a. You're desiring these asses, but all Israel is desiring is YOU
 - b. The lost asses were just God's way of bringing Saul to Smauel
2. Has God ever used something that seemed annoying at the time, to accomplish His will for u?

Read Chap 9:21

1. Humble attitude about Kingship, but will it last

Read Chap 9:22-24

1. Saul eats a king's meal with Samuel's guests

Read Chap 9:25-27

1. Samuel takes the time to talk with Saul

4th principle is that God is faithful to empower you for what He's called you to do (Chap 10:1-16)

Read Chap 10:1

1. Anointing was a pic of the H.S. coming upon someone to do the Lord's work
2. Just as water baptism is a picture of the baptism of the H.S., this anointing of oil is just a picture of the real anointing of God in Saul's life

Read Chap 10:2-5

1. 3 signs confirming Samuel prophecy concerning Saul becoming King
 - a. You'll find men that say the asses are found
 - b. You'll see 3 men going to worship God that will give you bread
 - c. You'll meet singing school of the prophets
2. These were to encourage Saul to believe

Read Chap 10:6

1. Saul will be convinced that the Lord is working in his life – change always happens upon belief!

Read Chap 10:7-8

1. When God is working in your life, press in
2. But there was a specific instruction here in vs 8 to wait for Samuel

Read Chap 10:9-10

1. As Saul went, the 3 signs DID happen
2. Remember, as Israel called for a kingdom, Saul hasn't done anything wrong here
3. Saul has found himself identifying with the spiritual men...for maybe the first time

Read Chap 10:11-13

1. Prophets were made fun of for their eccentric behavior & they were learned in the scriptures
2. Saul had been very different from them
3. Saul being w/ them stood out as change

Read Chap 10:14-16

1. Samuel told Eli the WHOLE matter b/c Eli asked him to and it was about Eli
2. Here Saul tells his uncle only part of this matter...out of humility

5th principle is that it's culminated with a variety of responses (Chap 10:17-27)

Read Chap 10:17-19

1. Mixed bag - Come meet your king (yay), but it's b/c you rejected your God (ouch!)
2. God has proved that He alone can save yet
 - a. Fear would have them need an earthly king
 - b. Laziness would have them want a king

Read Chap 10:20-21

1. He didn't show up for his coronation
2. Why? Lazy? Feared men? Feared the job?
3. This is his 1st sign of spiritual weakness
 - a. Earlier when he said, 'I'm nothing', that was before he knew he was called of God
 - b. Now God has called, he can't hold back

Read Chap 10:22-24

1. W/ Samuel's credibility, Saul is on board
2. Notice, Samuel is still looking on the outward

Read Chap 10:25

1. From Chap 8:11-18 – He will take-you will cry
2. Their flesh is happy, but Sam brings sobriety

Read Chap 10:26-27

1. God is doing a work in Saul's life
2. When God intervenes, there's division (Matt 10:34)
 - a. Vs 27 – Those of the flesh will stir immediate conflict
 - b. But the joy of Vs 26 - to walk thru life w/ like-minded people!

Conclusion

So, this is a great picture of what it's like when we forsake living for God's Kingdom & go about establishing our own kingdom on earth

1. **It's caused by not believing God's Word**
2. **God moves even natural circumstances to accomplish His will, even if it means we get 2nd best**
3. **Yet God is faithful to empower those that will do His will**
4. **It culminates in a variety of responses**
 - a. **Unbelievers will hate the work for God**
 - b. **Godly will be used of God to accomplish great things**