

THY KINGDOM COME #17
Developing A Biblical Worldview

I. Introduction

Tonight I want to continue our teaching on “Developing A Biblical Worldview”, where we are learning to look at all of life through the lens of scripture.

Our title tonight is...

“Give Us A King”
The Perils of Political Salvation

The title is taken from a political turning point in the history of Israel; the day they demanded God give them a king so they could be ‘like the other nations’.

Let me give you where we’re going right up front: We shall show that...

Theme

**Israel's demand for an earthly king to save them amounted to a rejection of God and set them up for oppressive, big-government control of their lives.
Is America making the same mistake?**

I. Give Us A King: The Perils of Political Salvation

A. The Historical Context

1. Our story is set in the dark days of the Book of Judges, when all the institutions of government had become corrupt. (Self/Civil/Church)

a. No self-government: Every man was doing what was right in his own eyes. (Judges 21:25) (Sound familiar?)

b. The civil government, led in those days by ‘judges’, who with the exception of Samuel, had ‘turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes and perverted justice’ (1 Sam. 8:3). (Sound familiar?)

c. Even the priesthood was corrupt: “worthless men who did not know the Lord”. (1 Samuel 2:12-13) (Sound familiar?)

d. The last straw was the corruption of Samuel's own sons. (?)

1 Samuel 8:1-5

As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. Joel and Abijah, his oldest sons, held court in Beersheba. But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice. Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. "Look," they told him, "you are now old, and your sons are not like you.

(Then they drop the bomb-our text for tonight)

1 Samuel 8:5

Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.

c. Why would a nation as great as Israel want to demote itself to being like other nations?

d. Compare this to modern America! How come ½ our population voted for those who want to transform our country into a socialistic state when it has destroyed every nation that ever employed it?

2. The significance of this statement, ('Give us a king like the other nations) is that, for the first time in national history, the people were so unsatisfied with the government God had given them that they demanded a political transformation of their nation: from a Theocracy (being God-ruled) to a Kingdom (being man-ruled).

a. From the time of its founding, Israel was the only nation on earth that looked to God for everything they needed: salvation, security, protection, provision.

b. But now they wanted to forget how they were founded; they wanted to be like all the other nations; they asked for a king.

c. It seems only Samuel stood against it...

1 Samuel 8:6-7 (NASB)

But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

3. This is a prophetic picture of what's happening in America today; like Israel, from our founding we were dedicated to God and the authority of His word; our pledge of allegiance says we are 'one nation under God', our money says 'In God we trust'; but many Americans have exchanged trust in God for salvation by the State.

Gary DeMar

Instead of choosing security by repenting and turning to God as their Savior and Provider, they turned to the false security offered to them by a civil government that would subject them to slavery in the name of security.

a. The next verses reveal this wasn't the first time it happened...

1 Samuel 8:8

Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment.

4. Then comes the scariest part of the story—although they ask an evil thing, God gives them what they ask!

1 Samuel 8:9

Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them. So Samuel passed on the Lord's warning to the people who were asking him for a king.

5. This is a powerful principle in the biblical worldview of politics and civil government. God will give the people the government they want. Founding father Thomas Jefferson summed it up...

Thomas Jefferson

The government you elect is the government you deserve.

a. Remember these words the next time you complain about the condition of country; God gave us what we voted for.

6. But it's not like God didn't warn Israel of what would happen if they demanded He give them a king; God gives them a list of what I call...

B. The Perils of Political Salvation

1. The 1st 2 consequences involve our children; parental authority will be undermined; our sons and daughters will become servants of the state.

1 Samuel 8:11-12

"This is how a king will reign over you," Samuel said. "The king will draft your sons and assign them to his chariots and his charioteers, making them run before his chariots. Some will be generals and captains in his army, some will be forced to plow in his fields and harvest his crops, and some will make his weapons and chariot equipment."

- a. Notice the underlined terms imply *coercion*
- b. The same said of the sons is true of the daughters.

1 Samuel 8:13-15

The king will take your daughters from you and force them to cook and bake and make perfumes for him.

c. When one generation chooses to reject God's government and 'ask for a king' to be 'like the other nations', *the next generation goes into bondage!*

d. This is already underway in America, where our children are trapped in government school systems that force them to wear masks they don't want and take vax jabs they don't need. And now the children are forced to sit through so-called sex education classes that promote drugs and irreversible transgender surgeries without parental consent!

e. This is what you get when you put the wrong people in power.

2. The 2nd peril of political salvation is the confiscation of personal property, higher taxes, and the redistribution of wealth.

1 Samuel 8:14-15

He (the King you're asking for) will take away the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his own officials. He will take a

tenth of your grain and your grape harvest and distribute it among his officers and attendants.

a. Here we see God's warning about the big-government Marxist/Socialist systems that would come into the world; they will take your personal property distribute it as they please.

Gary DeMar

Private property will no longer be safe. The property and labor of others will be used to pay for political favors.

b. Today, our tax money has been stolen by so-called political saviors who distribute the funds to their friends and buy votes, like when this President pays off billions of dollars of student loan debt without approval by congress.

c. Meanwhile, this President is giving NO MONEY to protect our southern border, where millions of illegal aliens are streaming in, given free cell-phones and health-care and transportation to the city of their choice.

d. Does it bother you that your tax money is paying up to \$700 a night to put illegal aliens up in luxury hotel rooms? Does it bother you that billions of your tax dollars are being sent to Ukraine while many Americans can't put food on the table or gas in their cars? Does it bother you there will soon be more IRS agents to harass you than there are U.S. Marines to defend you?

3. All these things are happening because we, the American people, have rejected the government God gave us and called for a King to save us; we are following Israel in falling into the perils of political salvation.

4. In the next verse God tells us where this all ends up; the final judgement on any nation that rejects salvation from God in favor of salvation by the state is enslavement.

1 Samuel 8:16-17

“He (the King you're asking for) will take your male and female slaves and demand the finest of your cattle and donkeys for his own use. He will demand a tenth of your flocks, and you will be his slaves.

a. Those who begin by saying “Give us a King’ end up in slavery.

b. Their search for political salvation produces a pain level that will eventually awaken even those who voted for it...

1 Samuel 8:18

When that day comes, you will beg for relief from this king you are demanding, but then the Lord will not help you."

5. There is a price to pay for political salvation; Are we learning this lesson? Israel has rejected God and is demanding a new form of government; God has sent Samuel to warn of what their new king will do to them:

- Conscript your sons
- Make servants of your daughters
- Confiscate your private property and redistribute the wealth as he sees fit
- And finally, v.17 make you his slaves, to the point where you will beg for relief from the king you are demanding, v.18.
- (Sound familiar?)

6. NOW YOU WOULD THINK that this would give the people pause about how they would vote! You would think they would repent and return to God. But NO....

1 Samuel 8:19-20 (NASB)

Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, "No, but there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

a. Question: What was wrong with these Israelites that would make them want a different political system so they could be 'like all the nations'?

b. In the same way I wonder what is it about so many Americans who are demanding a different political system so we can be 'like all the nations'?

c. Which nations? The ones who have been destroyed by seeking political salvation through socialism? Russia? China? North Korea? Nations that enslave their sons and daughters and dishonor the people's personal property rights and freedom of speech?

d. I believe the root of all that's wrong with people who fall for the myth of political salvation is revealed at the end of v20:

1 Samuel 8:19-20 (NASB)

Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, "No, but there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

7. The problem is that Israel already had a King to judge them and fight their battles! They had God! (Consider their history!) But now they are willing to throw it all away look for someone else to save them. The same can be said of us.

C. The Sin of Seeking Security in the Flesh

1. This is the most important point in the message: all our political problems come upon us when we look to the government to take care of us:

- To fight our battles
- To pay off our debts
- To keep us safe and secure
- In other words, when we expect the government to be our god!

a. Gary DeMar sums up the situation by reminding us...

Gary DeMar

The State is not our father, provider, or savior. We're all looking for security. Security is not necessarily a bad thing. God wants us to find security in Him. But when man rejects God as the only Sovereign Lord and Savior, he turns to some other "higher power" to fill the vacuum.

2. Any nation that rejects the government of God will put another government in His place and call it God.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831)

“The State is the Divine Idea as it exists on earth. We must therefore worship the State as the manifestation of the Divine on earth; the State is the march of God through the world.”

a. It may shock you to know that many of our highest-level politicians, who claim to be Christians, are really counterfeit Christians who truly believe salvation can only come from the government.

b. This position was put forth by a well-known socialist of the last century...

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

“It is only the actions of the State that can solve our spiritual problem and lead us to the ‘Promised Land’.”

3. Herb Schlossberg, in his book “Idols for Destruction”, warned us about those who propose that politics can save us...

Herbert Schlossberg, “Idols For Destruction”

“For these people, the state is the only savior we can expect on earth. Salvation is only to be found in the messianic state, or it is to be found nowhere. Therefore, they believe that the only human endeavor that can save us is politics.”

4. The same “Give us a king” mindset of Israel still exists today by those who are willing to surrender their freedom for the sake of security to those who pretend to be our benefactors.

Gary DeMar

There are those who are convinced that a better society can be created and maintained by turning over nearly all authority, power, and jurisdiction to “benevolent caretakers of our souls.” “God is not needed,” they say. “Just give us a little more power, a bit more jurisdictional authority, a few more tax dollars, and you'll see the difference.”

We do see the difference.

Gary DeMar

The merchants of promise have an insatiable appetite for power and control. There is never enough money to do what they claim needs to be done. So they're back again for more money. In all of this God is rejected as our Father. The State no longer wields the sword. Rather, it becomes a benefactor, buying votes with the slippery voice of the promise and the transfer of wealth from the "haves" to the "have-nots."

This is where we end up when we reject God and 'ask for a king'.

III. Close

A. A Summary of the Story

- The people go to Samuel and demand he give them a king
- Samuel goes to God who tells Samuel what's really going on
- God sends Samuel back to the people with a warning
- The people refuse to change their vote; the story ends...

1 Samuel 8:21-22

So Samuel repeated to the Lord what the people had said, and the Lord replied, "Do as they say, and give them a king." Then Samuel agreed and sent the people home.

1. Of course you know what happened; they ended up with Saul; a terrible king who fulfilled all the warnings God gave the people. Today we have many Sauls sitting in the seats of power in our capitals. How did they get there? They pick up their power promising things only God can deliver.

Gary DeMar

"Politicians pick up on the desire for security and dependency and use it for political gain."

a. Gary calls these politicians 'merchants of promise', who offer promises only God can fulfill in exchange for our votes; and then stay there 50 years.

Gary DeMar

How do these merchants of promise remain in office? We the people keep them there. The nation has chosen its god, and it's not Jehovah. Christians have fallen into the trap of looking to the State as a substitute father, looking for sustenance. But God is our Father. He cares for us. Turning to the State for every provision is a form of slavery.

2. We sit here tonight as the least-free generation in American history:

- The lockdowns were a warmup for further incursions on our liberty
- Our freedom of speech is under assault; as is our right to bear arms
- The teacher's unions control the schools
- We have sent \$100's of billions to defend the border of Ukraine but won't spend \$1 billion to defend our own southern border
- And on top of that, this President is now stealing \$350 billion of our tax money to pay off student loan debts without approval of Congress!
- And we put these people in office!

3. As the pain level rises, I'm reminded of the wise words of John Calvin...

John Calvin

When God wants to judge a nation, He gives them wicked rulers.

4. I do not believe it's too late for America; we have an important election in 2 months and a huge one in 2 years; politics is important; how we vote matters.

5. Remember that God is not against civil government; He establishes civil government. But He never intended that we look to it for salvation!

6. There is a danger in praying God 'Give Us A King' when we really need to examine our hearts and make sure we are honoring the King we already have.

Closing Prayer

Title