

# THE RISE AND FALL OF A NATION



Lessons from Israel's first kings

One Nation No-Longer  
Under God.



“IN THOSE DAYS ISRAEL HAD NO KING;  
EVERYONE DID AS THEY SAW FIT” JUDGES 21:25



# A CONCERN FOR LEADERSHIP

1 Samuel 8: 1 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's Judge's. 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. 3 But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. 4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. 5 They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”



# GOOD CONCERNS - GODLESS SOLUTIONS

The trap- is thinking that the right guy in office will save us...  
only God can save us.

- No one sought the Lord for direction or help (Prayer)
- We can't solve spiritual problems with worldly solutions
- A leader needs character and competence



# THE REJECTION OF GOD

6 But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. 8 As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. 9 Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.”



# THE RIGHTS OF THE KING

VS 11-17

- He will take your sons and draft them into his military
- He will take your land for himself
- He will take your sons and have them work his fields
- He will take your daughters to become his cooks and bakers
- Take the best of your vineyards for himself
- Demand a tenth of your crops and flocks for his officials
- Take your servants for his use
- Take your horses, cattle and donkeys for himself
- Make you his slaves
- Tax you



18 “When that day comes you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you that day.”

19 “But the people refused to listen to Samuel. ‘No!’ they said. ‘We want a king over us. 20 Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.’ 21 When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. 22 The Lord answered, ‘Listen to them and give them a king.’ Then Samuel said to the Israelites, ‘Everyone go back to your own town.’”



# IN GOD WE TRUST?

Or are we trusting in a political leader?

- They wanted to be like other nations with a strong military leader
- They wanted to be safe
- They wanted someone to have power and influence

The trap: thinking that a man can save you, when only God can.

(Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.)



# SAUL: THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

1 Samuel 9:2 “Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else. 15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel: 16 ‘About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over my people Israel; he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me.’ 17 When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the Lord said to him, ‘This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people.’”



# SAUL: THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

1 Samuel 10: 23 “They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. 24 Samuel said to all the people, ‘Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.’ Then the people shouted, ‘Long live the king!’ 25 Samuel explained to the people the rights and duties of kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the Lord. Then Samuel dismissed the people to go to their own homes.”



Our hearts are right for longing for a king, but we must  
give our hearts only to the right king...

King Jesus

