

Sermon, March 6, 2011,
“Bad King”, 1 Samuel 6:1-9
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

Review of the Pentateuch

Genesis	Sin; Grace and mercy of God; God provides; God promises
Exodus	God delivers, sets free, redeems; gives His law
Leviticus	Rules for a Holy People
Numbers	Rules broken; obedience, disobedience, and consequences
Deuteronomy	Moses farewell; keep the covenant; love God, obey the LORD

Review of the Books of History so far:

• Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	
Joshua	entering, battling for, and taking possession of the “Promised Land” can only be done through the LORD.
Judges	when you forget to follow the LORD. The Promised Land of the kingdom of God will not be as bountiful for you as intended unless you know and have relationship with the King of this Kingdom and follow Him in love and obedience. The message of Judges...know your King.
Ruth	Knowing your King leads you to redemption

Overview of 1 Samuel:

- Takes place at some point in time during the Book of Judges, probably around 1,050 to 950 BC
- Author unknown.
- Samuel originally written as one book
- The fourth book of history.
- **Outline of 1 Samuel:**
 - 1-7 Fall of Eli and the rise of Samuel
 - 8-15 Samuel and Saul; Saul’s rise and his failed kingship
 - 16-31 Saul and David; David’s rise and Saul’s fall

Major Themes of Samuel¹:

- In Joshua and Judges the tension of the writings revolved around the complete vs. partial conquest of the land
- In Samuel the tension between the grace and law of God is extended by its application to the question of monarchy.
- Possession of the land is now tied to kingship.
- God authorizes and selects Israel’s first two kings, but the request for a king is also a rejection of God’s rule.
- God promises that David will never lack a descendent sitting on his throne, but both land and kingship are lost through disobedience.
- This very tension between God’s promises and His justice remain unrelieved throughout Israel’s history until the coming of the true King, Jesus Christ.

Up until this time God has raised up leaders and deliverers for Israel...Moses, Joshua, Othniel, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, now Samuel.

- However, the people of Israel, in their degradation from Moses through Judges, become restless.

1 Samuel 8:1-5

When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beer-sheba. ³ Yet his sons did not follow in his ways, but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice.

*⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; **appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.**”*

¹ Dillard and Longman, “An Introduction to the Old Testament”, Zondervan 1994, p. 146.

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- The leadership of Samuels’ sons was as perverse and worldly as the people around them.
- Remember the very last verse of “Judges 21:25”:
²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.
- Now the people want a king like the other nations around them.
- In the midst of turmoil and confusion the people turn to the world around them.
- It is easy to resort to familiar earthly solutions in our lives.
- In fact this is the natural way of worldly wisdom.
- **1 Corinthians 3:19** *For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God.*

The wisdom of this world is to reject God as King.

1 Samuel 8:7

, ⁷ and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.”

- They are forgetting who the King should be and are looking to their own desires for what is common in the world around them, an earthly ruler.
- God granted their request in choosing Saul, the choice of the people, tall, handsome, strong...but he ended up a failure.
- He started out as a capable military leader (defeating the Philistines, Amalekites, Ammonites) who was humble at first but became proud, disobedient to God, and insanely jealous of David...a very bad king.

As we will see, there is another king to come, David whom God anointed:

- Throughout Samuel there is a recurring theme of “the Lord’s anointed” (1 Sam 16:3, 6, 12-13; 24:6; 26:9; 11, 16, 23; 2 Sam 1:14, 16; 3:39; 19:21)
- **1 Samuel 16:13** *¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.*
- The Hebrew word for messiah means “anointed one”.
- God is ultimately redirecting their desire for a righteous king to the messiah to come...Jesus.
- God had raised up great leaders in their history, but nothing like what was to come...in the person of Messiah, the true King, God Himself, Jesus Christ.
- **1 Timothy 1:17** *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*
- **Revelation 15:3** *“Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!”*

- God desires this Kingly relationship with you.
- While human kings/rulers may triumph over the enemies of our nation
- Our God, King Jesus, triumphs over the enemy of our souls.
- The message is the same as Joshua 24:15: *“choose for yourselves today whom you will serve ... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*