

The Anointed King: Anticipation For A Forever King Begins

God has no Substitutes

1 Samuel 8-11

Main Idea

Israel was trusting in an earthly king to do what the Lord had promised to do for them as their Heavenly King. Sin is in the wrongful motives as to where the trust lies.

Overview

- Israel notes Samuel is old (and will soon die) and his sons are not faithful successors (1 Sam. 8.1-5a)
- Therefore they conclude the best way to prosper is by having an earthly king like the other nations (1 Sam. 8.5, 20)
 - The motive seems to be their trusting in that earthly king to:
 - Judge them (vss. 5-6, 20)
 - He would fight their battles for them (vs. 20)
 - His kingship will allow them to be “like all the nations” (vs. 20)
- Samuel is disgusted at this, but more so, the Lord is rejected by this because He understands them to be rejecting Him as their King:
 - Asking for a King is not wrong in and of itself as Genesis 49.10 and Deut. 17.14-20 seem to lead on that God intended to establish a King
 - Gods aversion to their request then was that they were rejecting His ways and His providence to protect them as well as their distinction in the world
 - God had chosen them to be distinct in the world, not just like it (Deut. 7.6-11)
 - He had promised to fight their battles (Deut. 7.10-11) and He had just proven that to Israel in 1 Samuel 7.10 at Ebenezer
 - The “Judging” they then seem to be clamoring for was more out of line with Gods Word and more in line with the world
- God has Samuel to explain what earthly kings tend to do by “taking” all the time (vss. 10-17)
 - Yet: God had given abundantly to them
- They reject and desire a King and God gives them one although God is the one that chooses him
 - 1 Samuel 9.15-17: God declares He has chosen Saul as the successor to Samuel
 - 1 Samuel 10.1: Private Anointing of Saul as King
 - Vss. 2-16 explain three events that confirm the prophetic voice of Samuel that also confirms his being the human agent to anoint Saul as king
 - 1 Samuel 10.20-24 describe the public anointing of Saul to Israel
- 1 Samuel 10.25 mentions there is a particular kind of administration Saul is to abide by: Namely:
 - Rights and duties that are in keeping with the Lord
 - This is likely the teaching of Deut. 17.14-20
 - Note: This king is not to be “like the other nations”...but distinct
- 1 Samuel 11 is the public confirmation of Saul’s kingship in his facilitating the Lord’s defeat of an enemy of Israel

Questions

Discussion Starter: Using either geo-political states or more representative ‘kings’ describe how we tend to think they can give us peace, protection, and acceptance by the world.

1. Read 1 Samuel 8. The Lord understands that they have rejected Him as King, yet God had promised a King of some sort (Gen. 49.10, Deut. 17.14-20, etc.). So why does He say they are rejecting him?
2. In our every day lives, how do we do act like the Israelite people and reject God as King? What are we saying to God when we do this?
3. What does the repetition of “he will take” in 8:10-18 tell us about the nature of self-appointed, earthly kings? Describe some of the lies that the ‘kings’ of ‘other nations’ tell you in promising you protection, acceptance, and peace. Contrast this with the character of God (cf. John 3:16; Romans 8:32).
4. What does it say of God that He is aware of all of their/our failures (1 Sam. 8.8) and yet He doesn’t give up on us? How was the “trial” of Jesus and crucifixion similar to these events?
5. Read 1 Samuel 10-11. What is your initial impression of Saul? Note the ways the Lord chooses him and anoints him as king.
6. Who does Saul understand to have fought and defeated Nahash?
7. Though the full picture has not been given to us as yet, in what ways does God discipline His people by giving them what they want? Why would the Lord do this?
8. How does the Gospel prove to us that God is trustworthy?
9. Is it hard to trust a King you cannot see? How do you walk faithfully through this?

Accountability question: Confess various kings you are trusting in and pray for help to overcome through trusting Christ.