

In Search of a King 1-2 SAMUEL

1 Samuel 8:1-22

The Desire for a King

Desire for a King

➤ Setting:

"Samuel was old...his sons, however, did not walk in his ways"

Desire for a King

1. Is God against kingship in Israel?

- the institution of a king in Israel was planned by God and viewed as His gift...
- yet it needed to be reinterpreted in a manner appropriate to God's rule as King alone

¹⁴ "When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' ¹⁵ you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, *one* from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. ¹⁶ Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' ¹⁷ He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.

(Deuteronomy 17:14-17)

¹⁸ "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

(Deuteronomy 17:18-20)

Desire for a King

2. Why not start with a King?

- to make it clear that Yahweh alone is King
- to distinguish Israel from the other nations
- to make the need for a godly king very apparent (e.g. *the Book of Judges*)

Desire for a King

3. Why was their request sinful?

- they wanted a king in order to be “like all the other nations”
- they did not trust God’s provision, protection or rule but sought these in a king

Is God your King?

Desire for a King

4. Why did God grant their request?

- as a form of His judgment – He gave them what they desired
- as a form of salvation – He used human sin to advance His saving design

Desire for a King

5. Why the plan for a human king?

- to show that God’s saving reign must be mediated through a king
- to lead to King Jesus, the son of David, who saves and rules His people forever

Is Jesus Your King?