

The King & The Kingdom

1 Samuel 8-11

We are quick to reject God as our King

1. What are some reasons it is difficult for us to recognize there is a King and we should bow the knee?
2. According to vv. 7-8, when Israel demands a king, God sees this as a rejection of Him. Why?
3. We have some indications that God plans to provide a king for Israel (Genesis 17:6 and Deuteronomy 17:14-20), but Israel demands God provide a king “right now.” Can you think of something you have wanted “now” and you should have waited on God’s timing?
4. According to vv. 5 & 19, why does Israel want a king? Why is this sinful?
5. What are some examples of good things we want but we might have questionable motives?

We easily become enslaved to other masters

6. We often think that if we remove ourselves from God’s rule, we will be free. Why is this wrong?
7. What are the consequences of having another king according to vv.11-18? Why do you think Israel does not recognize or seem to listen to these consequences?
8. It was mentioned that we can quickly become enslaved to the idea of a perfect relationship, or success, or pleasure. Explain how these “masters” can master us. Can you think of other examples of “masters” that can master us?

God the King will give us over to our desires

9. In v. 22, we see that God will give them what they demand. He gives them Saul. What are some ways Saul is not a good king (either from chapters 9-11 or from the rest of 1 Samuel)?
10. We do see that God anoints Saul with his spirit (chapter 10) and gives him victory in battle (chapter 11). Does this surprise you? Explain why you think God does this?
11. Can you think of another example (biblical or current) when someone has demanded something of God and He gives them what they demand? Have you experienced this?
12. It was mentioned that some people demand independence from God and hell is a place where they get what they demand. It was mentioned that CS Lewis said we will either say “thy will be done” to God or He will say “thy will be done” to us. Is this a new way of thinking for you?

God the King is gracious

13. While God gives Israel what they demand, we also see God’s graciousness to Israel. He will give them a good king in David. What are some contrasts between Saul and David? Or what are some ways David will be a better king than Saul?
14. While we see significant differences between Saul and David, we see an even bigger contrast between Saul and King Jesus. What are some ways Jesus is a better king than Saul?
15. John 19:14-16, Galatians 4:7, and Acts 20:20-23 are New Testament passages that either refer to 1 Samuel or have similar themes. Explain how each of these passages relates to 1 Samuel and how 1 Samuel ultimately points to Christ.