

I SAMUEL 8; March 23; The Cost of a King

ANALYSIS:

1. What were the three reasons the elders of Israel offered in demanding a king from Samuel? _____
2. In wanting a king, whom did the LORD say the Israelites were rejecting? _____
3. What would having a king cost the Israelites? _____
4. What two things would the king take a tenth of from the Israelites? _____ and _____
5. What did the LORD tell the Israelites that they would end up doing after they had chosen a king? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

For 500 years the Israelites had time and time again rejected the LORD in favor of the gods of the nations around them. Now they were again rejecting the LORD in favor of a king so they could be like their neighbors. God judged them over and over again for their sinful ways until finally he totally destroyed them in 70 A.D. May we learn from the rebellious Israelites that God will judge us severely if we do not walk in his ways and seek him with all of our heart “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption...” (Gal. 6:7).

Although Samuel saw firsthand the terrible judgment that came upon the house of Eli because he did not train and discipline his sons the way God commanded him to, he too failed in training his sons to be godly men who feared the LORD. Samuel's “sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment” (v 3).

Eli and Samuel prove there is a great challenge in fulfilling Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Let every parent consistently and prayerfully train their children in the ways of the LORD when they are young, and trust God that they will not depart from those ways when they are grown. Don't neglect this today!

HELP:

1. Samuel was old, his sons did not walk in his godly ways, and Israel wanted to be like the other nations and have a king (v 5).
2. Not Samuel, they were rejecting the LORD (v 7).
3. Their sons and daughters; their fields, vineyards, and oliveyards; their seed, menservants, maidservants, goodliest young men, asses, and sheep (vv 11-17).
4. Their seed and their sheep (vv 15,17).
5. They would end up crying to the LORD, but he would not hear them (v 18).