



+ **YOU**

Summer 2024
Promises We Can Count On

Sermon Title: My Kingdom, Thy Kingdom

To be used with Session 5: God's Promise of a King

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:4-18; Jeremiah 33: 3-17; Matthew 1:1; Revelation 11:15

Connection with Bible Study: To complement the Bible study "God's Promise of a King" this sermon will compare Israel's demand for an earthly king to God's promise of an eternal king. Israel wanted a king so it could be like all the other nations around them. God gave them what they asked for, but the history of the Old Testament shows that didn't go so well for them. Sin makes us want to be kings of our own little kingdoms. Surrendering to the lordship of Christ means shifting our focus from "my kingdom come" to "Thy kingdom come."

Introduction: When you hear the word "dynasty," what do you think of? Some of you might think of the 1980's nighttime soap opera starring Joan Collins. Or, you might think of a sports team that has won multiple championships in a row. The Green Bay Packers won seven NFL championships in a row between 1961 and 1967. The Boston Celtics won eleven NBA titles in thirteen years (1956-1969). Back when the World Series was a best of nine series, the New York Yankees won five in a row (1949-1953). <https://www.sportsbettingdime.com/guides/articles/top-sports-dynasties/>

None of these come close to the longest running royal dynasties. The Windsors have reigned in England since 1910. The Hapsburgs of Austria reigned from 1278-1914. And the granddaddy of them all, the Yamato dynasty, has been in power in Japan for at least 1500 years!
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dynasty>

All of these are impressive, but none can compare with the promise God made to David—that there would never fail to be a son of David on the throne of Israel.

1. A Kingdom Wants a King (1 Sam. 8:4-9).

Following the four-hundred-year period of the judges, God's people Israel looked around and saw that all the nations surrounding them had kings. So they told Samuel they wanted a king too. Perhaps they remembered what we talked about last week—that God had told them they were to be a "kingdom of priests" (Ex. 19:6). So if they were a kingdom, where was their king?

Obviously, they had missed the point. It had been God's plan that His people would accept His rule over their lives. Nevertheless, he told Samuel to find a king for them, because "they have rejected me as their king" (1 Sam. 8:7).

Lifeway

Humans have been doing this for all of our history. We put celebrities, social media influencers, and politicians up on pedestals and look to them for guidance. Ultimately, we put ourselves in charge of our own little kingdoms.

In his book *The Great Divorce*, C.S. Lewis said, “There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “Thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, in the end, “Thy will be done.” <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-on-heaven-and-hell/>. When we reject God, God gives us what we ask for.

2. Be Careful What You Ask For (1 Sam. 8:10-18).

God told Samuel to “solemnly warn them and tell them about the customary rights of the king who will reign over them” (1 Sam. 8:9). And that’s what Samuel did. He warned the people that kings would draft their sons into military service, make slaves out of the people, take ownership of their fields and vineyards, and tax them relentlessly. It would come to the point where the people would cry out for relief, but “the LORD won’t answer you on that day” (1 Sam. 8:18).

Sure enough, for the next four hundred years of Israel’s history, their kings would do all these things. After the death of Solomon, the united kingdom of Israel split into two rival kingdoms, and ultimately both were destroyed. The northern kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria in 722 BC (see 2 Kings 17), while the southern kingdom of Judah would fall to Babylon in 586 BC (2 Kings 25).

Rejecting God’s rule in our lives never gives us the freedom we think it will. We think we will be able to live by our own rules and be the masters of our own fates, but inevitably we become ruled by our passions and held captive to sin (see Rom. 7).

And yet, even though God didn’t answer His people on the day they were led into captivity, ultimately, He would answer them.

3. An Everlasting Kingdom Needs an Everlasting King (Jer. 33: 3-17; Matt. 1:1; Rev. 11:15).

1 Samuel 8:18 was NOT the end of the story! Jeremiah was one of God’s prophets during the time Judah was in exile in Babylon. He saw the fall of Jerusalem with his own eyes! God used Jeremiah to offer a word of comfort and hope to the exiles. Through Jeremiah, the message was now “Call to me and I will answer you” (Jer. 33:3). God described a restored Jerusalem in which there would be health, abundance, prosperity, and security (v. 6).

So, who would be king over this new utopia? And how would Israel avoid merely repeating the same cycle they had gotten into before when they demanded a king? The difference was that this time, God would establish the king. In verse 17, God told the people that there would never fail to be a son of David on the throne of the house of Israel. And centuries later, a baby would be born in the city of David—Jesus Christ, the Son of David (Matt. 1:1). Revelation 11:15 promises that our kingdoms will become His kingdom, and He shall live forever!

Lifeway

Conclusion: History has a way of repeating itself. Whenever we try to set up a human king (especially when we make ourselves king), we will fall. Every earthly kingdom and dynasty, even the great Yamato dynasty of Japan, will one day cease to exist. But Christ will rule forever. When He ascended into heaven, He took His place at the right hand of God. One day He will return to take those who have surrendered to His kingship to be with Him in heaven where, according to 2 Timothy 2:12, we will reign with him.

Beloved, are you still trying to build your own kingdom? Today, change your focus from “my kingdom come” to “Thy kingdom come!”

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