

Lesson 29 The Book of 1 Samuel Review: Part Two

Kingship in Israel is one of the 4 major themes in 1 Samuel. Before the time period of 1 and 2 Samuel Israel did not have an earthly king. They were a theocracy with God reigning over them. God as their ruler, gave them His law at Mt. Sinai and entered into a renewed covenant relationship with them. In the book of 1 Samuel we see for the first time earthly kings who are to act as regents or representatives of God. These kings are to reflect God's rule from heaven over His chosen people.

1 Read through the Song of Moses in Exodus 15:1-21. Moses and Israel sang this song when God delivered them from the Egyptian army who pursued them. How does this passage of scripture describe God as a warrior and as a king?

The Book of Deuteronomy addresses the concept of human kingship in Israel. God knew that one day the Israelites would want a human king reigning over them, so in Deuteronomy 17 beginning in verse 14 God lays out the requirements for kingship in Israel. In doing so, God demanded the human king's loyalty to Himself. God gave the Promised Land to the Israelite nation and their retention and enjoyment of it depended on their keeping His covenant. If the king and the people kept the covenant, they could count on God to deliver them from their enemies as He had promised. At the heart of the covenant was Israel's obligation to be loyal and thus obedient to the covenant. Therefore it was the king's primary responsibility to be loyal to God himself and then by example and wise leadership to help the people do the same.

Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20

2. Deuteronomy 17:14-17 speaks of God's criteria for the king who will rule His chosen nation when they have taken possession of the land. According to Deuteronomy 17:15 who is to choose the king and from whom shall the king be chosen? In light of the king's role as the regent of God and administrator of the covenant, what was the significance of both of these criteria?

3. What are the three prohibitions for the king in Deuteronomy 17:16-17. How could following all three of these prohibitions force the king to be more dependent on God. What are some possible consequences of breaking them?

Application: As Christians how might any of these warnings relate to our lives today?

4. According to Deuteronomy 17:18-19 what must the king do in relation to the Law? According to 17:19-20 why must the king carry this out? What promise does God give in 17:20 to the king who obeys these commands?

Application: As Christians how do these commands apply to our lives today?

Samuel, Israel's Last Judge and Saul, Israel's First King

At the end of the period of Judges, God raised up Samuel who was Israel's last judge. He was a man who loved God and was faithful. He led the people with integrity. Near the end of his life Samuel's sons helped judge Israel, but they were corrupt. Therefore the elders came and asked Samuel to appoint a king to rule over them "to judge us like all the nations".

5. According to 1 Samuel 8:5-8 what was wrong with their request for a king?

Read 1 Samuel Chapter 13

God gave them Saul, the kind of a king they wanted, along with a warning of the consequences of their choice through Samuel. Saul begins well but his overall disregard for God and His Word eventually becomes his downfall. In Chapter 13 Saul disobeyed God's instructions given through the prophet Samuel. As a result Saul lost his opportunity for a reigning dynasty. In Chapter 15 Saul is given further instructions by Samuel in regards to the Amalekites. Again Saul disobeyed and this time God rejects him from being king over Israel.

6. In 1 Samuel 15:10-26 what specific reasons are given for Saul's rejection as king? How does this relate to the commands of Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

