

The Story: Chapter 10 Appointing a King

Look at the TIMELINE!

Here is where we are right now:

The Israelites have been living in the Promised Land for a few years now. We're coming to the end of the time of the Judges.

Eli is the Priest at this time.

We're introduced to Hannah. Hannah is struggling because "the Lord has closed her womb." She stands before Eli praying for a son and God blesses her with a son named Samuel.

She gives Samuel to the Lord for ministry and he is eventually called by God as a Prophet and will serve as the last Judge in Israel.

Through this time of Judges, we have seen God's people go in and out of oppression to the nations around them.

So, they decide that, since all of the nations around them have a King, they want a king as well.

And, here's what we know to be true:

In times of trouble, God's people have a tendency to follow the ways of the world.

Let's see what we can learn from this story today:

I Samuel 8:1-9

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. ² The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. ³ But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. ⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, **such as all the other nations have.**" ⁶ But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are

saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. ⁹ Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do.”

The people come to Samuel and ask him to appoint them a King.

- They see the military force of the people around them and they all have a king.
- They even say to him that they want to be like everyone else.

HUGE: This AGAIN goes completely against everything God has tried to show them since he made them a nation.

So, God told Samuel to warn them and let them know what would happen to them if they had a king.

- He did the best he could to warn them...

But they didn't care...

I Samuel 8:19-22

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. ²⁰ Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.” ²¹ When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. ²² The Lord answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”

So, God, through Samuel, gave them a king.

Lessons from I Samuel:

1. As Christians, we are NOT SUPPOSED to look like the world around us.

They wanted a king so that they could have the life like all the people living around them.

God built the nation of Israel specifically to be different from everyone else.

- It was His plan for them to be different
- He stayed with them as they traveled so that all the people that saw the Israelites would know that they are different.

AND, it's His plan for us to be **different**.

When we give our lives to Christ He "sets us apart" in this world.

- We are called to be different.

Reminded yesterday: The fruit of the Spirit in our lives is what makes us stand out as different.

Question: Can people see the difference in you because of the fruit being produced in your life?

So, God tells Samuel to anoint a king for them.

In Chapter 9 Samuel anoints Saul to be the first King of Israel.

Saul's Journey:

- Saul starts out with a humble heart.
- He's actually out searching for some lost donkeys for his Father.
- When Samuel tells Saul that he will become king he reminds Samuel of the fact that he's a Benjamite, from even the least of all their clans.

When Samuel makes the announcement about Saul the people start looking around for him. Chapter 10:22 says, "He has hidden himself among the supplies."

He seems to have started out with a humble heart.

- And, then, just like you and I do sometimes, he started thinking a little more about himself than about God.

In Chapter 11 he saves the people from the power of Jabesh. He came away from that with a pretty good feeling about himself.

And we see the beginning of that right here in chapter 13:

In Chapter 13, Saul is trying to get his army to prepare to fight against the Philistines.

- When they see the Philistines they all run and hide in caves and behind rocks.
- Basically, Saul was watching his military force crumble right before his eyes.

- He feels the need to lead them into battle. He must pull them together so they have a chance to win.

REMEMBER WHAT Samuel SAID TO HIM EARLIER:

I Samuel 10:8

⁸“Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, **but you must wait seven days** until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.”

Look at how Saul handled this:

I Samuel 13:7-14

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. ⁸He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter. ⁹So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering. ¹⁰Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. ¹¹“What have you done?” asked Samuel. Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, ¹²I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.” ¹³“You acted foolishly,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; **if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.** ¹⁴**But now your kingdom will not endure;** the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”

Lesson 2.

2. Waiting on the Lord is an act of obedience, not laziness.

Samuel made it very clear that Saul was to wait on him so that he could come offer the sacrifice.

- Saul decided that he had waited long enough and went ahead with the sacrifice.
- Verse 14 says he actually lost his Kingdom because of this decision.

LISTEN: God is using His children to show us that He takes it very seriously when He tells us to do something and we don't do it.

Question: God ever told you to wait on Him but you decided now would be better than later?

Be Clear: When God gives you a timeline that He wants you to follow, that is the **ONLY** timeline you should be looking at.

Waiting:

- 7 days
- 30 minutes after text

We must stop jumping ahead of God

Then we see the beginning of Lesson 3.

- Two chapters later...

I Samuel 15:14-21

¹³ When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions." ¹⁴ But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?" ¹⁵ Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest." ¹⁶ "Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied. ¹⁷ Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. ¹⁸ And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.' ¹⁹ Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?" ²⁰ "But I did obey the Lord," Saul said. "I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹ The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal."

His job was to kill everything and everyone.

- He chose to capture the king and keep some of his sheep and cattle as well.

His excuse was that he wanted to sacrifice these animals to the Lord. Listen to what we can learn:

3. Obedience is still better than sacrifice.

I Samuel 15:22-23

²² But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

Why did the Lord reject Saul as King?

- Because he wouldn't wait when he was told to wait.
- He wouldn't do what he was told to do.

FOR US: There is no substitute for obedience.

Jesus even lets us know that our obedience is what shows that we love Him.

Saul decided that he knew better than Samuel.

And, we definitely get to the point sometimes where we think we know better than God.

And, where did it all start: The people wanted to be just like the people around them.

Reminder:

1. We are not supposed to look like the world around us.
2. Waiting on the Lord is an ACT of obedience.
3. Obedience is better than anything else we have to offer.

What has He shown you today?