

1 Samuel 7&8

v.1 The **men of Kirath Jearim** treated the Ark of the Covenant with respect and honor; yet they did not take it to the tabernacle. Instead of the ark resting in the holy of holies, at the house of God, it was brought **into the house of Abinadab**.

Psa 78:58-61 For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images. (59) When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel, (60) So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men, (61) And delivered His strength into captivity, And His glory into the enemy's hand.

v.2 it takes 20 years for them to cry out but the Ark will remain there for another 20 years until David brings it to Jerusalem

It stayed this way **a long time**. Israel had the ark back; but things were not really set right. Israel finds they are no more right with God just because they have the Ark of the Covenant again. Instead, **all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD**.

They had good reason to lament. Their cities were in ruins, their armies were defeated, and they were under Philistine domination, all because they were not right with God.

“It may very naturally be asked, ‘Where was Samuel all that time?’ I know not what he was doing during those twenty years; but I have a suspicion, I may say, I have a firm persuasion, that he was going from place to place, preaching in quiet spots wherever he could gather an audience; warning the people of their sin, and stirring them up to seek Jehovah, this endeavouring to infuse some spirituality into their national life.” (Spurgeon)

v.3-4 the mark of revival, or perhaps what precedes revival is not signs and wonders, not fancy worship but repentance

v.5 **Gather all Israel to Mizpah**: This was the place where Jacob separated from Laban ([Gen 31:49](#)), and was the gathering place for a repentant Israel in [Jdg 20:1](#). This was a place remembered for separation and repentance.

- drew and poured out water- symbol of God’s purification pouring out- how do we do that today? God’s *Word- Eph 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, (26) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, (27) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

Psa 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

And they fasted that day, and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.” Israel also expressed their sorrow over their sin by *fasting* (a message that nothing else really mattered except getting right with God), and by *confession* (a straightforward claim of guilt and responsibility).

2Ch 7:14-15 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (15) Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

v.12 rock of remembrance , a place of remembrance- where are those places that God has been faithful in the past? Meditate on those things. God is faithful, righteous and loves us

v.17 Samuel always returns to that special place of individual worship and relationship with God

chapter 8

v 1-3 **When Samuel was old . . . he made his sons judges over Israel:** Samuel was one of the most godly men in the entire Bible. He is never specifically said to sin. Yet, this may be a sin on his part. We never have the pattern of **judges** being appointed by men, or of the office of judge being passed from father to son. Samuel was not right in appointing **his sons judges over Israel.**

While it is was wise for the elders of Israel to reject Samuel’s sons as leaders, it was wrong for them to say, **“Now make for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”**

In and of itself, the desire to have a king was not bad. God knew that one day Israel would have a king. Four hundred years before this, God gave instructions to Israel about their future king ([Deu 17:14-20](#)). A king was in God’s plan for Israel.

Yet, the *reason* Israel wanted a king was wrong. **Like all the nations** is no reason at all. We often get into trouble by wanting to be like the world, when we should instead be transformed Romans 12:1 image of Jesus Christ ([Rom 12:1-2](#)). The church struggles with the same issue today, too often wanting to be like the world.

v.6 **So Samuel prayed to the LORD:** This is the right thing to do whenever we are **displeased**. We should never carry such troubles with us. Instead, we should do what Samuel did, when he **prayed to the LORD**.

v.7 **They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them:**

v.8 **You shall solemnly forewarn them:** information creates responsibility. In telling Israel this, Samuel was not only helping them to make an informed choice; he was increasing their accountability for making the right choice. They couldn't say, "We didn't know."

v.10-18 **He will take . . . He will take . . . he will take . . . He will take . . . he will take . . . He will take . . . And you will be his servants:** The LORD, through the prophet Samuel, is giving fair warning. Most kings are takers, not givers, and they come to be served, not to serve. If Israel wants a king, they must realize he will be a taker, not a giver, and they **will be his servants**.

i. Not every king is a "taking" king. The King of Kings is a giving king. Jesus said of Himself, *the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve* ([Mat 20:28](#)). Paul carried the same thought: *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.* ([Php 2:5-8](#))

ii. [1Pe 2:9](#) calls us *a royal priesthood*. If we are royalty, let us be like our King Jesus: a giving King, not a taking king.

No, but we will have a king over us: That we also may be like all the nations. God never wanted this to be the goal for Israel. God wanted to make them *a special treasure to Me above all people . . . a kingdom of priests and a holy nation* ([Exo 19:6](#)). God wanted to make Israel something special, and they wanted to be just like everyone else! [1Sa 7:1-17](#). Israel did not want a king. They had a king in the LORD God. What they wanted was the *image* of a king. Their desire for a king was really the desire for someone to look at with their own eyes that *looked like* what they thought a king should look like.

Never get complacent as Samuel did

Realize that God is our King, our Ruler

Do not seek to be like the world

Personal relationship

Billy Graham said there were three things that were important for God to move

Prayer, prayer, and prayer