

A King for the People

The King and the People Series

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What We Will Learn

- Series on “The King and the People”
- Understanding God’s purpose government
- Government versus people relationships
 - Government responsibilities to the people
 - People responsibilities to government
 - Based on biblical accounts of interactions between people and their government
- Kings, judges, other rulers

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A King for the People

- People of Israel demanded a king
- Leader, Prophet Samuel, was reluctant
- God approved
- Told Samuel to honor the demand
- Defines people-government relationship
 - What people expect from government
 - What government expects from people
- 1 Samuel 8 and related passages

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Setting Before Demand for King

- Prophet Samuel was judge over Israel
- Spiritual and judicial/political leader
- God intervened literally to lead Israel in military campaigns
- Example: Victory over Philistines at Mizpah
- 1 Samuel 7:3–16 [10–13 read in session]

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4

1 Samuel 7 (NKJV)

10 Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the Lord thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.

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5

1 Samuel 7 (NKJV)

11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.

12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

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6

1 Samuel 7 (NKJV)

13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

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Not Satisfied with Samuel's Sons

- Israel not satisfied
- With Samuel's son's performance as judges
 - Sought dishonest gain
 - Accepted bribe
 - Perverted justice
- People of Israel met with Samuel and demanded a king instead
- 1 Samuel 8:1-5

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1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

2 The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.

3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

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9

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,

5 and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

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10

God Advises Samuel

- Honor the people's demand for a king
- Explain to them their responsibilities to the king
- Don't feel rejected because of their demand
- 1 Samuel 8:6-9

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11

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord.

7 And the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

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12

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.

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13

1 Samuel 8

9 Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.” [NKJV]

9 Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.” [NIV]

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People’s Responsibilities to a King

- People will be recruited into state military and security services
- Different types of military service
 - Commands
 - Professional (e.g., engineering & agriculture)
 - Weapons and arms manufacturing
 - Ancillary services (e.g., acquisition and supply of food and hygiene items)

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Responsibilities to a King cont’d

- People will pay taxes to the state
- State has right over all property (e.g., right of eminent domain)
- God will not absolve people from their responsibilities to the state
- Based on God’s message to the people through Samuel
- 1 Samuel 8:10–18

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16

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

10 So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king.

11 And he said, “This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.

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17

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

12 He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.

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18

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

14 And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.

15 He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants.

16 And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work.

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19

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

17 He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants.

18 And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day.”

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People’s Expectation from King

- Administer justice
- With fairness and honesty
- Represent the nation among other nations
- Lead the nation in its battles
- Provide for continuing viable leadership
- Based on demand presented to Samuel
- 1 Samuel 8:3, 5, 19, & 20

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21

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

5 and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

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22

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, “No, but we will have a king over us,

20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

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God Approves the Arrangement

- God approves making a king for the people
- With people’s responsibilities to the king as explained to the people
- And king’s responsibilities to the people as the people demanded
- 1 Samuel 8:21–22

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24

1 Samuel 8 (NKJV)

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the Lord.

22 So the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king."

And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

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What We Learned

- God approved Israel to have a king
- That is, become a state
- Responsibilities: People to the king (state)
 - Authority to collect taxes
 - Authority to raise military and security forces
 - Authority over landed property
 - Authority to represent the people
- Responsibilities: King (state) to the people
 - Exercise authority on behalf of the people

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