



WEEK 5 : KINGDOM UNITED (Joshua – 1 Samuel 7)

Question: How do you feel about authority? Do you think it is good to have a king/ruler? Why, or why not?

In 1 Samuel 8, the Israelites ask for a king “such as all the other nations have” who could lead them into battle (v5, v20). In doing this, we’re told, something about their attitude towards God is revealed. What is it? (v7)

In the book of Judges we see that, because Israel had no king, “everyone did what was right in his own eyes”. So, whilst having a king isn’t a bad thing in itself, the Israelites’ demand for one revealed something else – that they were rejecting God. They wanted a person to do the job. Someone they could see.

This is very significant, and it’s worth taking time here to do a bit of soul-searching. Are there ways in which you have looked to people, or things, or ideologies to lead and fight for you instead of looking to God? If so, what are they? And what might that reveal about your attitude towards God? Take some time now to repent and worship our forgiving Father.

Read 1 Samuel 10:1-11

Samuel anoints Saul as king over the people of Israel. How are the people described in verse 10?

Samuel gives Saul three prophetic signs – things that will happen to him to confirm that God is with him. What are they?

1. (v2) _____

2. (v3-4) _____

3. (v5-6) _____

Are the signs fulfilled? (v9)

What does the Spirit of God do in verse 10?

In verse 8, Samuel gives Saul one very specific instruction. What is it?

Next, read 1 Samuel 13:1-14

The Israelites have stuck their hand in the hornet's nest by attacking a Philistine outpost. Now the full Philistine army is on its way to fight them.

How big is the Philistine army? (v5)

What did the people do when they realised this? (v6-7)

What did Saul do when he realised his troops were starting to scatter? (v9)

Saul excuses his actions by saying he was seeking God's favour, which he had clearly already been given. He just had that one command to obey, and he broke it. It seems he was trusting in the size of his army instead of the faithfulness of his God.

God tells Saul through Samuel that this disobedience has caused him to take the kingdom from Saul and give it to someone else? What kind of king will he choose instead? {v14}

In Matthew 3:13-4:11 we read that when Jesus was baptised the Holy Spirit came down onto him, just as had happened when Saul was anointed king.

Jesus then went into the wilderness where he had to stand his ground not just for seven days, but for forty. But, unlike Saul, Jesus did not give in. In fact, whilst three specific moments are recorded of how Jesus rebuked the Devil's temptations to break God's law, Jesus broke none of it. His heart was fully after his Father's.

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Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17.

This is a hugely significant passage. The following questions, to help get to grips with it, are from Vaughn Roberts' book "God's Big Picture" (pp. 90-91)

What does David want to build? (v1-2)

But what does God want to build? (v11)

What has God already done for David? (v8)

What does he promise to do in the future?

How do these promises echo the promises made to Abrahah in Genesis 12:1-3?

What does God promise concerning the coming king? (v12-16)

How does Jesus fulfil these promises? (See Matthew 1:1. Mark12:35-37, John 2:18-22, Acts 2:24, Romans 1:1-4)

What implications does this have for

- our understanding of Jesus?

- our relationship with Jesus?