

Sermon Series: The Big Picture  
Sermon title: Kingship  
Scripture reading: 1 Samuel 8:1-7  
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Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
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### **Introduction:**

Over the last several weeks in this series, what we've seen is that God's design from the very beginning is that the people he created should live under his rule. Adam and Eve had an opportunity to live under God's kingly rule but refused. And they and all humans now live under a curse. That curse is from our very birth we reject God's rule over us and do what we want. Yet, God in his love and mercy is restoring his kingdom and making things right. The Bible is the story of how God makes right what we've made wrong.

As we saw last week, in the book of **Deuteronomy**, God gave the people of Israel instruction and warnings about how to live under his rule. Obedience brings blessing and disobedience brings cursing. Sadly, because of indwelling sin, man isn't able to live under God's rule. They continue to do their own thing.

The book of **Joshua** showed us mostly a good example of what happens when the people obey the LORD.

The book of **Judges** shows us what happens when they don't obey the LORD and forsake him for other things.

The last thing we saw in the book of Judges was this statement. *"In those days, there was no king in Israel. Everyone did that which was right in their own eyes."*

And in showing us these things, the scriptures are shining the light on our own sin & driving us toward what we really need. We need someone to deliver us. Someone to fight the ancient serpent for us. Someone to remove our sin. We need a conqueror, a deliverer. We need a King.

This sets the stage for the big section of scripture and Israelite history called the period of kingship. Ironically, Israel already had a king.

## **1. WHEN GOD IS KING.**

Turn to the book of **1 Samuel chapter 7**. At this point, Samuel is still the judge, prophet and priest in Israel. He's leading the people and doing a pretty good job.

In chapter 7 we have a good example of the way things are supposed to be. God's people living under God's rule in God's place. But there's an obstacle and a problem. Their enemies, the mighty Philistines are about to attack. Some of them are giants. Remember Goliath? Their army is approaching and what will Israel do?

Well, in chapter 7 they do the right thing. **1 Samuel 7:8** says, *8 And the people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."*

And the LORD fights their battle for them, as he had always done as their King. Look in **1 Samuel 7:10-12** *"10 As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the Lord thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel."*

Easy work for the King of the universe!

Samuel celebrates the victory with worship.

**12** *Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us."*

Very important words. Beautiful words. *"Till now the Lord has helped us."* Their in good hands.

In **1 Samuel 12:6-12** we have a recap of how God had been their 'help' and King and taken care of them.

**6** *And Samuel said to the people, "The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. **7** Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers. **8** When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. **9** But they forgot the Lord their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them. **10** And they cried out to the Lord and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.'*

**11** *And the Lord sent Jerubbaal [Gideon] and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety. **12** And when you saw that Nahash the king of*

*the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the Lord your God was your king.*

The LORD God almighty, maker of heaven and earth, the only God that exists...is their King and he fights for them. We see this all over the story of the Bible. Egypt, the plagues. The Red Sea, the waves. Jericho, the walls crashed to the ground. The battle of Gibeon in Joshua 10, the LORD threw down large hailstones from heaven on the armies. When Gibeon fought the Midianites, the LORD made the Midianite army turn their swords on each other. The LORD has been their King, their stone of help. He has been a King who has given and given and given to them, providing everything they needed.

But sadly, God isn't good enough.

God's people don't want to live under God's rule.

Where before in Judges they abandoned God for the idols of the Canaanites, Baal and Ashteroth...now they abandon God for something else. A man.

## **2. WHEN MAN IS KING.**

Where **1 Samuel 7** showed us what they were supposed to do, trust in the LORD God their King.

**1 Samuel 8** transitions to them asking for a substitute, a man.

- In chapter 7 they cried out for God to save. Now they cry out for a man to save. [8:5,6,19]
- In chapter 7 God fought their battles. Now they want a king to fight their battles. [8:20]
- In chapter 7 the LORD was their stone of help and now, he is the stone the builders reject. [8:7, 12:12, 10:17-18]

Let's read some of the account in **1 Samuel 8**

**1** When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. **2** The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. **3** Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

**4** Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah **5** and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." **6** But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. **7** And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.

The problem wasn't their desire for a king but their rejection of the LORD for a king. They abandoned the LORD. They rejected the LORD. It's the same old problem with a different face. They rejected him for idols before and now they reject him because they want a man to lead them.

Ironically, where God gave and gave and gave to them and provided what they needed, Samuel warns them that when man becomes king, he won't give but he mentions, "he will take" six times in 1 Samuel 8:10-18. He will take. He will take. He will take.

Asking for a king in and of itself is not wrong. It was already prophesied that from the line of Judah would come kings in **Genesis 49**. In **Deuteronomy 17**, God gave Moses instructions on how their future kings were to behave themselves. Sadly, most of them didn't follow these guidelines.

The little king is fine as long as he submits to the rule of the big KING.

But their desire for a king now is called wicked and evil as he tells them again in chapter **12:17**.

*"Your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking for a king."*

But the LORD grants their request. Even though their motive was wicked, God is still going to be faithful to his promises and he's still going to accomplish his purposes.

### **3. When the little king follows THE KING.**

Adam was supposed to exercise dominion under God's rule. Now, these earthly kings are allowed to rule as long as they rule *under* God's rule. God makes it clear in the New Testament as well that HE is the one who places people in authority but they are supposed to serve as vice-regents and not as the supreme ruler.

In the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles we have mostly bad examples of how the kings refuse to live under God's rule but we do have a few good examples.

Saul is of course a bad example. He rejected the LORD and turns to a witch!

David is a good example, for the most part. He is a man after God's own heart. [1 Samuel 13:14]

David led the people like we saw in 1 Samuel 7. He "*inquires of the LORD*" when he has a problem.



[2 Samuel 5:19, 23, 25] That's what he's supposed to do. The little king is supposed to consult the King. David isn't perfect but he points us forward to what we should look for.

David isn't the one we have been looking for since Genesis 3, since Genesis 12. We need a better king than David or Solomon or anyone else. They lived under God's rule some, but not perfectly. Perfection is needed.

#### **4. The King of kings.**

Though David wasn't the one, God made a promise to David, much like the one he made to Abraham...that from him would come an offspring, a seed, a descendant. God made a covenant with Abraham and with David to send the King and deliverer we need.

Let's read **2 Samuel 7:8-17**

**7** Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,  
**2** the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."  
**3** And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you."  
**4** But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, **5** "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? **6** I have

not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. **7** In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" **8** Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. **9** And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. **10** And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, **11** from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. **12** When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will

*discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, **15** but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. **16** And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”*

So, here we have a huge piece of the puzzle.

Here we have an echo of Genesis 3 and Genesis 12.

The seed of Abraham who will bless all nations and the seed of Eve, the ruler who will crush the serpent’s head and reign forever.

This is Jesus Christ.

He is the King of kings and LORD of lords who will reign forevermore.

Let us ponder for a moment what kind of King Jesus is.

**Is he a powerful King?** **Hebrews 1** says that he *‘upholds the universe with the word of his power’.*

**Is he able to defeat and overcome his enemies?**

**Philippians 2** says that, *“God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”*

**Is he a wealthy King?** Does he have enough resources to provide for his subjects?

**Philippians 4** says, *"my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."*

**Is he a wise and good King?**

**Colossians 2:3** says that in Christ *"Are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*

How great is this King of kings and Lord of lords?

**Revelation 5** tells us.

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."*

**Application:**

Who's your king?

Everyone has a king.

Where's your allegiance?

Who do you turn to..to fight your battles?

Right now, what are you struggling with?

How are you dealing with them?

Are you turning to your own resources?

Turning to your family?

Turning to a man?

Consulting your favorite pastor or website for the answers?

We do that, don't we?

We are just like the Israelites.

We need some wisdom or we need some answers.

We need a job.

Life is made up day to day of a thousand different decisions and difficulties in which we either turn to the King in faith and trust him and live under his rule or else we turn to someone else to fight our battles.

We turn to a man.

We turn to our family gods.

We turn to the gods of the culture.

Often we just rely on our own abilities.

What battle in your life today do you need to let the King take care of?

Do it.

Empty your hands and give it to the King.

**2 Chronicles 16:9** says this.

*"The eyes of the LORD roam to and fro throughout the whole earth to give strong support to those whose hearts are blameless toward him."*