

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

1 SAMUEL 7:15-10:27

Last week we saw how the **children of Israel had been defeated by the Philistines and how the Philistines had captured the ark of the covenant and how after God inflicted the Philistines with much pain and suffering they sent the ark back to Israel.**

We also saw last week how the children of Israel finally paid attention to what Samuel had been telling them and they repented and turned from their idols and turned back to God.

We also saw last week that God honored their obedience and gave them victory over the Philistines.

Well, wouldn't it be nice if the story ended there? But, life's never that simple, is it? Let's look and see what the children of Israel have decided they need in their life!

1 Samuel 7:15-8:5...

Samuel was God's man...he was both judge and prophet to God's people. In his last days, he was a circuit rider, and he made the circuit among several cities. Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

In **chapter 8**, we see how the people came to Samuel and demanded a king. And, on the surface, their demand and the reasons for it seem to be rational. **But, I believe we'll see shortly what their real reason was and why it was not pleasing to God...**

The first reason the people set forth was that Samuel had grown old. "Samuel, you're just too old. You're just too set in your ways. You're just not flexible enough. The things you teach and preach aren't relevant to us today."

The second reason the people gave was that Samuel's sons were corrupt. Samuel had appointed his sons, Joel and Abijah to be judges, but they had an ungodly walk.

Samuel's walk was a humble and an obedient walk. The word "walk" in Scripture means "lifestyle...a manner of living". And the lifestyle of Samuel's sons didn't compare with the lifestyle of Samuel.

Not only did they have an ungodly walk, they also had a lust for money. They took bribes and perverted justice.

These two men were supposed to be honest and upright. They were supposed to be a preacher and a legal advocate for the people. They were supposed to settle the disputes of the people. There were supposed to seek the will of God and base their decisions on what God wanted and not on who could pay them the biggest bribes.

These men abused their power and position and so the leaders of Israel came to Samuel and said, "Samuel, we want a king. We don't want anymore judges because you've gotten too old and your sons are too wicked."

It's interesting that spiritual life isn't automatically transmitted to our children, is it? I mean, although they certainly have a much better chance of coming to the Lord if their parents are godly, **godly parents don't automatically have godly children!**

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

Eli was a man of God, but his children weren't. Samuel was a man of God, but his children weren't. Perhaps Samuel spent too much time on the road. Perhaps Samuel's sons were just bent to do evil...Whatever the reason, they were not the type of men that even the Israelites wanted to rule over them.

So...the people told Samuel they wanted a king...

- 1) because Samuel was old
- 2) because Samuel's sons were no good
- 3) because they wanted to be like other nations...

They wanted to be like everybody else! God had called these folks out to be a "peculiar" people. God had called these folks to be a light to the nations around them...to be consecrated and set apart and sanctified to Him. They were supposed to draw the nations around them to want to know their God...**but instead, they looked at the nations around them and longed to be just like them!**

They looked around them and they said, "Look at the Jebusites...they have a king! Look at the Amorites and the Hittites, and the Moabites and the Gittites...all these folks have a king, and we want one, too!"

And then the fourth reason these folks wanted a king was so a king could lead them into battle. You have to look down in **verse 20** to see this, but it's there!

We've seen four surface reasons these folks wanted a king, but let me show you the **real** reason they wanted a king....

Verses 6-7...

These folks really wanted a king because they had rejected God!! See, they already had a King! God was their King!

But, they were tired of having an invisible, heavenly King. They were ready to trade Him for a visible, earthly king. They were tired of having an **eternal** King...they wanted a **temporal** king. They no longer trusted God. They no longer wanted Him to lead them. **They were ashamed of Him and they demanded a king!!!**

Well, what was God's response? What did God tell Samuel?

Verses 8-9...

God said, "**Samuel, they've rejected Me. They've forsaken Me.**"

Then, God said, "**Listen to them...**"

In other words, God is saying, "Go ahead and give them what they want. They want a king...let them have a king."

Let me ask you...was this the will of God? Was it the will of God for these folks to have a king? Was it His will that they reject and forsake Him?

Many times we hear about two aspects of God's will...We hear about His perfect will and his permissive will, but I want to offer for your consideration today three aspects of God's will. Let me hasten to tell you this is not original with me, but I learned this from Bro. Bob when he preached through 1 Samuel some years ago.

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

1) There is the determined will of God...

Back in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God inspired Isaiah to write: **“Behold a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son...”**

Later Isaiah says this Son who will be born of a virgin would be **“Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace and of His kingdom there shall be no end.”**

Now, that is the direct, dogmatic determined will of God...No power on earth or in hell or heaven could have stopped God's Son from being born of a virgin and no power on earth can stop His never ending kingdom.

Well, not only is there the determined will of God,

2) There is the desired will of God...

We don't have time to go to **Genesis** to read this...but when God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the beautiful Garden of Eden, He told them to be fruitful and multiply...He told them to replenish the earth and subdue it. He told them to rule over every fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth...

Genesis 1:28

God desired Adam and Eve to live in the Garden of Eden with everything under their dominion! But what happened as a result of Adam's fall?

Genesis 3:17: “Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground...”

See God's desired will for Adam was that he live forever in the Garden of Eden, enjoying the full fellowship with God with all of God's creation under his thumb. But what happened? **Sin thwarted it! Sin hindered it!** Because God made man with a will instead of making him a puppet, and because man rebelled against God, then instead of man living in Paradise, he lives in a world of darkness where sin abounds!!

God's desired will can be hindered and thwarted!!

“God is not willing that any should perish”...but some do perish, don't they? Do all come to repentance? NO!

God's desired will is for you to grow in the Lord. Do you? Are you? Are you hindering and thwarting God's desired will by refusing to put forth the effort to grow in His will? Be careful! Because the next facet of God's will just might come into play in **your** life...

Because we also see

3) There is the disciplinary will of God...

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

This is what **1 Samuel** is all about. We've just seen where the people came to Samuel and said, "We're tired of having a judge rule over us. We want a king like everybody else."

Now, I ask you...was that the **determined will** of God? No... Was it even the **desired will** of God? No... But, it became a part of the **disciplinary will** of God!

Now, this didn't take God by surprise. See, God knew way back in the time of Moses that the people would want a king and He even gave Moses some things He would require of the king...but this doesn't mean that this was His determined or desired will. It simply means God knew the hearts of these folks and how they would behave and react long before **they** knew!

**Hosea 13:11... "I gave you a king in My anger
and took him away in My wrath."**

I believe this is teaching us among other things that we must be very careful what we pray for! We just might get it!

Let me just say this before we leave this subject...we really go through **all facets** of God's will in our lifetime. Think about it...has there been a time in your life when you know there has been evidence of the **determined will** of God? Has there ever been evidence of the **desired will** of God? And has there ever been evidence of the **disciplinary will** of God? I believe if we took the time to look back over our lives...we'd see all three facets of God's will at work in our lives at various times!

Now that we've see the three facets of God's will...let's look at the warning God gives the people through Samuel.

Verses 9-17...

Now, can it be much plainer than this? Samuel says,

"Folks, it's not God's will for you to have a king, but if you're determined to have one, this is what is going to happen when you get yourself a king...

the king's going to take your daughters away from you...

the king's going to take your sons away from you...

he's going to take your money away from you...

he's going to take your land away from you...

your fields, and your groves and your vineyards...

he's going to take your flocks and your seed away from you...

he's going to take your freedom away from you...

That's what will happen when you get a king..."

Verse 18...

Now, is God being mean and callous? No! But, when God begins His disciplinary process, the whole process has to run its course until God withdraws His discipline.

"You'll cry out to Me, but I will not answer..."

There's not a more wonderful proclamation in all God's Word than that our God speaks to you and me...and there's not a more frightening proclamation in all Scripture than the fact that there are times when God is silent.

Well, what was their response to God's warning? **They refused to listen, didn't they?**

Verse 22...

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

“This is what we want, Samuel. It doesn't matter what **you** say and it doesn't matter what **God** says...we want to be like everybody else. We're tired of being different. We're going to **have** what we want to have...we're going to **live** how we want to live and we're going to **be** what we want to be.”

And what did God do? Did He send lightning from the sky to zap them? No! He just gave them over to what they wanted!!

We're going to see in a moment how God had Samuel anoint a man named Saul to be their first king. And we only have the time to barely touch on that but let me just say this...**God may let us choose our own way, just like He allowed the children to choose to have a king...but God does not let us choose the consequences!**

Well, **chapter 9** tells us how Saul was anointed privately by Samuel. It tells us that Saul's father had sent Saul out to look for some lost donkeys. Saul couldn't find these donkeys and the servant who was with Saul suggested they seek out a “seer”...a prophet, a man of God to help them in the search. This seer just happened to be Samuel.

Now the day before Samuel and Saul met each other, God had told Samuel that He would bring a man to him and this would be the man who would rule over the people.

Samuel and Saul had a meal together and Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him and said, “Has not the Lord anointed you as ruler over His inheritance?”

Samuel gave Saul three signs so that he would know this anointing was from the Lord and not just from Samuel...

- 1) **verse 2...**Samuel told Saul the donkeys for which he had been searching had been found...
- 2) **verse 3...**Samuel told Saul he would meet up with three men and he told him what they would be carrying...
- 3) **verse 5...**Samuel told Saul that as he came to the hill of of God that he would meet up with a group of prophets and Samuel told Saul exactly what these prophets would be carrying and what they would be doing...

1 Samuel 10:17-19...

Whatever we might think or want to think about King Saul, we must remember that the only reason he is even on the scene at all is because the people have rejected God. **If you don't understand this, you won't understand what we'll see about the life of Saul in the weeks ahead.**

Saul is made king by God's choice, but not by God's desired will! Saul is king by God's disciplinary will, but not by God's desired and perfect will!

Samuel isn't trying to browbeat these folks, but he **is** trying to remind them of the goodness and mercy and compassion of God. He's giving them one last opportunity to change their minds about wanting a king. He's saying,

“Folks, have you forgotten that you have been well taken care of by God? Do you really believe an earthly king can take better care of you than your Heavenly King?”

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

And can't you just see Samuel as he waits for the people to change their minds? Having reminded them of God's provision and great love and sufficient grace...Samuel waits for someone to come forth and say,

"Samuel, you're right. We've been stubborn and hard-headed and we've gone against God! We're sorry, Samuel."

But, that doesn't happen, does it? No one come and when Samuel saw that he lined all the tribes up and they cast lots.

By the way, the casting of lots was an Old Testament method by which folks discerned the will of God

It was a method God Himself allowed them to use.

The last time we see this method being used is in the **first chapter of Acts** when the disciples cast lots to choose a man to replace Judas. After that, we don't read of lots being cast anymore...WHY?

Because in the **second chapter of Acts**, the Holy Spirit of God came and the indwelling Holy Spirit is all we need to discern the will of God. He either to speaks to us in God's Word, or He speaks to us our heart!

Well, the rest of **chapter 10** tells us how Saul was hiding and they had to go get him and when he came forth the people rejoiced and shouted, "**God save the king...**"(KJV) or "**Long live the king!**"(NAS).

That in a "nutshell" is the story of how Israel came to have kings. And I want to tell you this decision by the Israelite leaders marked the beginning of **a downward spiral** in Israel's history. **There would be many kings to come, but there would be very, very few good kings and many bad ones. There would be a divided nation that came as a result of all this.**

Let me repeat something we've already said. God may allow us to make our own choices, but He doesn't allow us to choose the consequences of those choices...He does that!! And if we don't take anything else away with us today...let's take that!!

Next week, we'll see Saul's first challenge as king of Israel. We'll also see Samuel as he addresses the people and reminds them of God's goodness to them and gives them yet another rebuke for choosing a king...and we'll see a very interesting response from the people to this.