

The Proclamation of Saul as King Portrays the Simultaneous Realities of God's Provision and Judgment

1 Samuel 10:17-27

- As Saul is identified as king, the seemingly paradoxical realities of God's provision and love, and the idea of him judging Israel in giving them the king they asked for, are both true. This is God's nature - sin and consequences are real, yet his faithfulness and grace persist for us.
- I. Vs. 17-19 - Samuel declaration of Israel's rejection of God as King is decisive and tragic, yet still connected to God's faithfulness, mercy, and plan.
 - A. Vs. 17-18 - This rejection is in spite of all that God has done and been for them.
 - **Vs. 17-18** - Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah (This is where, as they faced the threat of the Philistines in chp. 7, Israel fasted, repented, saw God throw the Philistines into confusion, won, and Samuel set up a stone.). And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel (Relational. Beneficent.), 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians (From slavery.) and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you (Land. Blessing.)'."
 - Sihon. Og. Conquest (Jericho.) Judges (Moabites, Ammonites, Amalekites.) Philistines. How this points to salvation. God's character and faithfulness.
 - B. Vs. 19a - This rejection says much about their hearts, and portrays more universal realities also.
 - **Vs. 19a** - But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses (Comprehensive. Continual.), and you (You or your six times.) have said to him, 'Set a king over us (8:4-8. Like the nations [8:5.].)'
 - This is the nature of the human heart. Ro. 1:23 - Exchanged the glory of the immortal God. His worth.
 - C. Vs. 19b - The command to present themselves signifies the decisiveness and sadness.
 - **Vs. 19b** - Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands (Contrast of other times God does this to show blessing. Nu. 1.)"
 - D. Yet, we know that God is purposeful in what is happening in Israel and beyond.
 - Unlawful sacrifice in chp. 13. Rash vow in chp. 14. Disobedience and rejection in chp. 15. David in chp. 16. Yet, seemingly paradoxically, grace (Enabling, Vs. 26 - men of valor. Chp. 11 - Defeat of Ammonites. Providence of chp. 9. Simultaneous judgment and mercy. Rejection of Jesus (Jn. 1:11.), and judgment and mercy (Ro. 3:23-26.).
- II. Vs. 20-24 - The procedure of publicly selecting Saul as king reveals God's merciful provision, while hinting at the first sign of Saul's failure and God's judgment of giving Israel what it wants.
 - A. Vs. 20-21a - The narrowing down by tribe and family emphasizes God's sovereign precision, freedom, and purpose.
 - **Vs. 20-21a** - Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot (Or, finally he brought the family of the Matrites near, man by man.); and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot (Chp. 9.).
 - Ge. 49:10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet. Yet also, God has chosen this man (Tension.). Even though this is the people's desire, ultimately this is saying something about God choosing the one he uses to lead and rule (Reign and save in vs. 1.). David's anointing in 16:13. Mt. 1. Jesus's rule.
 - B. Vs. 21b-23a - Saul's hiding is the first hint of the flaws in his character, and relates to God's judgment.
 - **Vs. 21b-23a** - They can't find Saul, so they ask of the Lord again, "Is there a man still to come?" and the Lord said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." They run and take him.
 - It's as if we're seeing, this is what we wanted? In spite of the providence, anointing, and enabling.
 - C. Vs. 23b-24 - Saul's physical description is impressive, and the people accept him, but there is underlying alarm here too.
 - **Vs. 23b-24** - He's taller than anyone from his shoulders upward. Samuel says, "Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." All the people shout, "Long live the king!"

- He's peerless. This should be good, but it's not enough. And, any good he, or any other king, would be or do, is because of God's enabling. God looks on the heart (16:7.). Contrast of David. No human king will be enough.

III. Vs. 25a - There's a foreboding sobriety in the official statement and recording.

A. Samuel tells them what they're accepting in their desire for a king, but also what he is to be.

- **Vs. 25a** - Samuel tells the people the king's rights (8:10-18.) and duties, and writes them in a book and lays it up before the Lord.

B. His writing and laying it up before the Lord stands as a record against them, but also Saul.

- **Vs. 25a** - Samuel writes them in a book and lays it up before the Lord.
- 8:18 - This includes the record against them, and the record that every king will not live up to. Mt. 3:17 and 17:5 - This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Co. 2:14 - By canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

IV. Vs. 25b-27 - As the scene wraps up, the dual truths of God's blessing and judgment continue.

A. Vs. 25b - Israel begins life with this new reality.

- **Vs. 25b** - Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home.
- What will it look like? It's still not a full kingdom. The rest of 1 Samuel is a continued portrayal of God's faithfulness, and a Saul's failure, the human king who does not trust. But then David, and the years ahead, to Jesus's kingdom.

B. Vs. 26-27 - The simultaneous and continued emphasis on the two categories say a lot.

1. Vs. 26 - God's steadfast love, provision, and purpose persist.

- **Vs. 26** - Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched.

2. Vs. 27 - But the ones already against Saul particularly emphasize the rejection of God's provision, and foreshadow the impending tragedy.

- **Vs. 27** - But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

V. What is this teaching us about God and ourselves?

- The continued emphasis on God's plan. How the dual realities of provision and judgment portray his grace-filled sovereignty: even when he ordains hard times, his love is immeasurable and sure. How he deals with us. Even when there is discipline, it is because of his love. Patience. Sometimes God gives us what we want because he wants us to want what we need. How judgment and provision is ultimately pictured in the cross. The record against us is fixed by the one with no record against him. The already-appearing hints of Saul's failure and the need for Jesus. For ultimately, God does provide a King who saves and reigns.
- Rejection as King (People and worthless fellows.). Look to spiritual realities above physical. Response to call. Response to sovereign purposes. Living in the kingdom with Jesus as King. Gratitude that this is the way he acts, and trust.