

A Blueprint for Changing God's Order

1 Sam. 8:1-22

Introduction:

- A. Israel made a major change in God's order by demanding a king.
 - 1. God's government had worked for over 300 years.
 - 2. God allowed the king, but warned of server consequences.
- B. Israel's example is a blueprint for changing God's order — five factors:

Discussion:

I. Poor Performance (v. 3-5).

- A. Poor singing may lead to instrumental music (cf. Ancient Order p. 311).
- B. Poor and ineffective local organization may lead to additional organization (cf. 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
- C. Poor eldership may lead to preacher rule or majority rule.

II. Pernicious Envy (v. 5, 20)

- A. Danger of envying seeming success of wicked (Psa. 37:1-2; Prov. 24:1-2; 19-20)
- B. Easy to envy what denomi(nations) have.
- C. God's way always weak in eyes of unconverted people (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-29).

III. Foolish Pride (v. 20).

- A. Pride often accompanies envy.
- B. Israel wanted king to point to with pride.
- C. Brethren often want programs and institutions to point to with pride.
- D. Pride goes before destruction (Prov. 16:18).
- E. One of three avenues of sin. (1 John 2:15-16)

IV. Shortsightedness (vv. 11-18).

- A. Unwilling to listen to where it would lead.
- B. Interest was in the here and now.
- C. Warnings of knowledgeable brethren are often ignored.

V. Hardheadedness (v. 19).

- A. Determined to have king — no matter what.
- B. Argument: We want it, we will have it, no matter what anyone says.”

Conclusion:

- A. The bottom line — rejection of divine authority (v. 7).
- B. Cannot reject God's authority and change his order without consequences (cf. Divide kingdom)