

“Give Us A King”

1 Samuel 8:1-6

Introduction:

- A. God's way of governing Israel versus Israel's way.
 - 1. **God** governed through judges (leaders) as needed.
 - a. Weak confederation with no strong central government.
 - b. Raised up to meet crisis after periods of rest.
 - 2. **Israel** demanded a king.
 - a. Wanted stronger central government.
 - b. Rejected God's rule. (v. 7).
 - c. Warned of consequences. (vv. 9-18).
 - d. Stubbornly insisted: “We will have a king...” (v.19-22).
- B. God's way rejected because of **three contributing factors**:

Discussion:

I. The People's Exploitation Of *Abuse*. (vv. 1-5).

- A. No excuse for abandoning God's order.
 - 1. Preachers sometimes become “pastors” and “hirelings”.
 - 2. Elders sometimes become “lords over God's heritage”.
 - 3. Discipline sometimes is ineffective, mishandled, vengeful.
- B. No excuse to substitution our order.
 - 1. Cannot use poor congregational function as excuse for additional and/or larger organization. (cf. 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
 - 2. Cannot use poor worship to excuse “spontaneous worship”. (cf. 1 Cor. 14:40).
 - 3. Cannot use poor singing to excuse choirs, solos, quartets, and instrumental music. (cf. Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19).
 - 4. Cannot use poor eldership to excuse preacher rule or majority rule.

II. The People's Desire For *Conformity*. (vv. 5,20)

- A. God's people should not be led by “nations”. (cf. Neh. 13:23,24; Rom. 12,1,2).
 - 1. Yet, many want to “fit-in” the “mainstream”. (cf. Miss. elder's statement)
 - 2. “Everybody”, “Acceptance”, “Fashion” become gods of all too many.
- B. God's people should lead the “nations.” (cf. Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:15-16).
 - 1. In morals.
 - 2. In decency.
 - 3. In religion.

III. The People's Stubborn *Conceit*. (vv. 19,20).

- A. Manifested by an inordinate desire to impress others. (1 Cor. 1:21-2:5)
 - 1. With **our** wisdom.
 - 2. With **our** leaders. (Insist on fleshly standards for preachers, elders, etc.).
 - 3. With **our** church: Worship, work, and organization.
- B. Manifested by exalting ourselves. (cf. 1 Cor. 4:6).
 - 1. Determined to have **our** way. (v. 19)
 - 2. Determined to have **our** results. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:5,6).

Conclusion:

- A. We need to learn to live “in the world” without being “of the world.”
- B. We need to learn that MY way may not be GOD'S way.
- C. We need to learn to correct failures in working God's way rather than rejecting His way.