

## Session 11: 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel

- After the twelve judges, there follows Eli the priest/judge, who was pathetically negligent in disciplining his wicked and sacrilegious priest-sons Hophni and Phineas.
- After Eli, Samuel was a holy and wise priest/prophet/judge for many years. Samuel, in his old age, intended to appoint his two priest-sons, Joel and Abijah, to succeed him as judges over Israel, but they were corrupt and sacrilegious priests, unlike their father Samuel, **and so the people asked Samuel for a king instead.** Samuel seemed to take this slight personally, **but God told him that Israel was actually rejecting Him as King, expressing “no confidence” in Him,** despite centuries of saving and protecting His People from enemies and oppressors.
- God, through Samuel, **warned Israel that, if they were to have a king, their troubles would only become far worse,** as the drawbacks and burdens of having a king would outweigh its blessings, and Israel would groan with regret at having asked for a king (1 Sam 8:9).
- The Israelites obstinately persist in their warped desire for a king (monarchy), that they might be governed like all of the other nations (1 Sam 8:5,20), **even though their desire for a king is essentially a rejection of their unique vocation (calling) to live as a people set apart under the direct rule of God as King (theocracy).** Because of their obstinacy, God permits Israel to have a king.
- First, God’s permissive will serves as **penitential punishment for Israel,** who will experience the oppression of kingly rule, **as God will allow Israel to experience the painful bitterness that comes with rejecting His plan in favor of their own.**
- Second, God’s permissive will serves as a means of **keeping the 2<sup>nd</sup> promise of the Abrahamic covenant,** that of a kingly dynasty through the lineage of Abraham, as God will give the Israelites what they need wrapped in what they want, **as God will establish the kingly dynasty to ultimately be fulfilled in Himself in the Person of Jesus the Messiah-King (Christ), Who, as the Incarnate God, will be King of Kings for all eternity.**
- **Samuel oversees Israel’s transition from judges to kings.** Importantly, whereas a judge leads only during his/her own lifetime, **a king passes on his leadership to his son, thus creating a kingly dynasty.**
- There is wordplay involved with Israel asking for a king. Specifically, the Hebrew verb “ask” is *sha’al*, while the name of the first king is Saul or *sha’ul*. **Therefore, in asking for a king, they get exactly who they want in the person of Saul.**
- Saul, of the tribe of Benjamin, not Judah, was chosen by lot to be the first king. He seemed straight out of Central Casting, perfectly fit for the role as king, as he was tall, dark, and handsome, and also wealthy. **But Saul never had a heart for God, and very quickly proved himself unfit for a kingly dynasty because of sacrilege (1 Sam 13:13-14), or even to continue reigning as king because of his pattern of disobedience to God (1 Sam 15:11,28).** Over the years, Saul becomes violently unstable, even periodically demon-possessed (1 Sam 16:14), with his life ending by suicide on Mt. Gilboa (1 Sam 31:4b).

- God, through Samuel, having dethroned Saul as king due to his disobedience (1 Sam 15:28), **replaces him with king-elect David of the tribe of Judah and of the town of Bethlehem (1 Sam 13:16), who is a man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14).**
- **David is a type (foreshadowing) of Christ in many ways, including:**

Just as David is the king born in Bethlehem of Judah, **so too will Christ the King be born in Bethlehem of Judah.**

Just as David is anointed king by Samuel, a Levitical priest and a Nazarite, **so too is Christ baptized by John the Baptist, a Levitical prophet and a Nazarite.**

Just as David is the good shepherd, who risks his life to save his sheep from predators, **so too is Christ the Good Shepherd, Who lays down his life for his sheep (Jn 10:11-14).**

Just as David is the righteous king persecuted by Saul, **so too is Christ the righteous King persecuted by the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees.**