

"Give Us a King" 1 Samuel 8:4-21

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for **they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.** ⁸ According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which **they have forsaken Me** and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. ⁹ Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall **solemnly forewarn them,** and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

¹⁰ So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. ¹¹ And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you:

1. He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.
2. ¹² He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.
3. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.
4. ¹⁴ And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.
5. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants.
6. ¹⁶ And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work.
7. ¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your sheep.
8. And you will be his servants.

¹⁸ And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day."

¹⁹ Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said,

- "No, but we will have a king over us,
- ²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations,
- and that our king may judge us
- and go out before us and fight our battles."

²¹ And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD. ²² So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king."

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all.

1. There is NOTHING that can mediate between you and God.

Yet, WE come up with ways to get closer to God such as prayer formulas and religious exercises. We are saying that OUR efforts bring us closer to God, but God declares:

**There is ONE God and ONE Mediator between God and men,
the Man Christ Jesus, who GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL.**

It is not possible for our spiritual disciplines to bring us to God. Jesus already shed His blood so that we are now close to Him. We don't need any steps or practices to reach Him. God has brought us to Himself through the blood of Jesus.

2. There is NO ONE who can mediate between you and God.

A pastor seeking to regain control over his congregation said, "THIS is a *theocracy*, and I am the spiritual authority here!

Webster's dictionary defines "theocracy" as a "government of a state by immediate divine guidance or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided". The church is not a theocracy because EVERYONE in the church is divinely guided by God, not just one figure head. In a theocracy, the divinely inspired leader serves as a mediator.

**There is ONE God and ONE Mediator between God and men,
the Man Christ Jesus, who GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL.**

3. Give Us a King!

a. Yet, sadly, many people today see the church and the pastors as their MEDIATORS. They turn over the religious education of their most valued resource, their children to the church and the pastors. Few even bother to find out what is being taught to their children. Many of them are afraid to make the simplest of a life decision without consulting their spiritual leaders, and we are sad to say that many pastors are insulted if a church member makes a big decision without first consulting them. Now, it isn't wrong to ask for prayer within the body of Christ, but there are many believers today who would prefer to have someone else pray for them as if their prayers aren't as effective.

**ARE WE ASKING FOR A KING AND REJECTING THE KING OF KINGS?
SHALL WE DESPISE GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE TOWARD US AND APPROACH HIM
INDIRECTLY VIA A MEDIATOR INSTEAD OF THROUGH JESUS????**

- b. The church and your pastor were NEVER meant to be your mediators. You have direct communication with God as good as and as close as your pastors.

**There is ONE God and ONE Mediator between God and men,
the Man Christ Jesus, who GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL.**

- 4. If the church and the pastors of the church are not MEDIATORS, then what is the purpose of the Church?

Ephesians 4:11-16

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- a. To equip the saints for the work of the ministry
- b. To build up the body of Christ
- c. To promote unity of the FAITH & KNOWLEDGE of Jesus
- d. To provide sound teaching (doctrine) to keep from deception
- e. To encourage mutual love and care for each member by each member
- f. To gather together for worship, prayer, teaching, and fellowship

Matthew 18:19-20

"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Acts 2:42

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- 5. The warning to the children of Israel about asking for a King is a warning to all who seek a different mediator besides the King of kings, Jesus.
 - a. The pastors begin to see themselves as kings and the laity as subjects.
 - b. The laity begin to see themselves as subjects and the pastors as kings.
 - c. The professionals are trained to do ministry, not the people. So, the people aren't allowed or are discouraged from having an opinion about what is taught

and what happens. "You wouldn't tell your brain surgeon how to do brain surgery would you?"

- d. The spiritual leaders are seen as a little more spiritual, a little closer to God, more able to hear from God, and wiser than the laity.
- e. The warnings God gave the people can come true.
 - 1) "He will take your children for himself."
Children start to see the pastor as more spiritual than their parents. Parents willingly give the teaching and training of their children to the church.
 - 2) V 16: "He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work."
Sadly, in many churches, the clergy begin to see the people as only being valuable based on the "work" they can get out of a person. When the person rebels or is no longer productive, he/she is often ignored leaving the person feeling used and discarded.
 - 3) V 15: "He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants...¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants."
Many churches today REQUIRE than you tithe if you want to be a member. That money will be used to pay the employees of the church
 - 4) In some churches there are discipleship programs which end up being a form of mediation between the believer and God. They will influence such decisions as:
 - i. Whether or not and even whom you date
 - ii. Whom you marry
 - iii. If you should get a higher education or not (often seen as self-serving)
 - iv. What ministries you should be involved in
 - v. What decisions you should make

HEY, WHO NEEDS JESUS WHEN YOU HAVE A MENTOR?

Please don't take this wrong, but...

- I don't want to be your king. Jesus is your king.
- I cannot be your mediator between you and God. That job is only open to ONE PERSON, Jesus Christ.
- YOU can hear from God as well as your pastor can. You can go DIRECTLY TO GOD through Jesus.

John 16:26-27

In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; ²⁷for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.

- **The pastor should not be telling you what to do. God wants to do that! HE can direct you and speak to you.**

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- **There is NO ONE more qualified to teach your children than you. God gave them to YOU to raise. He will show you what is right for your own child.**

Ephesian 6:4

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

- **The job of every pastor and teacher and minister in the body of Christ is NOT to take over your life, but to set an example; to teach you the TRUTH so that YOU will have confidence in Jesus as YOUR mediator.**

1 Peter 5:1-4

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.