

What good would a King do?

We want a King!

'We want a King!'

'What?'

'We want a King!!'

'You don't need a King!'

'We want a King – every other nation around us has a king. We demand a king!'

'But what good would a King do you?'

'A King would protect us from all these other nations around us.'

'A King will not protect you – a king will protect himself. And he will build his own ego, and he will build a KINGDOM FOR HIMSELF, and he will use your sons and your daughters to make it happen. A King would be only concerned with himself. What good would a king do?'

'He would lead us into battle against these other nations! We demand a king!'

Samuel had a real problem on his hands, and he was devastated at this demand from the tribes of Israel.

And so he lay prostrate before God in prayer – he was broken, he couldn't believe their demands, or how strong willed they were.

At an annual General Meeting John McIlpatrick, our elder in Carrick, read out the names of those who had left our church, and you could tell how it broke his heart. I imagine he had a mixture of feelings – frustration, hurt, disappointment.

Some had left because change was happening too slow and some of them because it was happening at all – this elder couldn't win. The church was in a vacancy, and there were only two elders. John was the older of the two, and he took responsibility to carry out this official business. These people had been leaving over a number of months, we all knew they had gone, but there was something official about the reading out of the names, and something painful about it.

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John was at a loss to know what we should do, and although he was frustrated, he also clearly was hurting – because he loved God and he loved these people.

His response was the same as it ever was – bring it to the Lord and let him lead us.

Two years later, when the church had come through this struggle, and had started to really blossom; John was out walking and met one of those who had left.

John asked him how he was, and the man was very honest with him

He explained that when he left, he took his family back to their previous church, but they were not settled – the kids were not happy, his wife wasn't happy – and if truth be told he wasn't happy.

What John said next had such an impact on that man that he the next Sunday he and his family were back at the church.

John said – 'There is always a place for you in Carrick Baptist.' Not only did that family

return, but they became a real blessing to the church.

It is so simple, and yet it shows such a loving heart for people:

There are people missing from here this morning, and there will be people missing from your small group tonight.

If you are struggling with someone like that – then learn from Samuel – pour it out to God in prayer, and listen to what he says. But also learn from my Elder John – continue to care for people even when they don't attend, even if they exhibit a strong willed opposition to our ways.

Samuel didn't realise it at the time, but he would be the last of the judges – the people

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were demanding change, and change was coming.

As he lay there praying, God spoke to him, and this is what God said – ‘Samuel, it is not you these people have rejected, but me.’

That is a profound insight – Samuel clearly was feeling the people’s rejection of his leadership. You get the impression that this was eating at his confidence and his self esteem.

And God shows something of his own vulnerability when he says – Samuel – these people are not rejecting you – they are rejecting me!

And so he says – GIVE THEM WHAT WANT – GIVE THEM A KING

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Give them a King!

So Samuel comes to terms with the changes that are coming, and he calls the people together before God so that God will indicate who should be made king.

There was great excitement amongst the people. They were going to get their way – they were going to get a King, and what is more – God not only has permitted it, but he will actually select him for us by lot.

And so Samuel Call alls the tribes before the Lord, and

Tribes of Israel

Tribe of Benjamin

Family of Matri

Son of Kish

Saul

Saul would be the King of this special nation, this nation which was part of God's promise to Abraham, this nation that had witnessed God's Mighty power.

But Saul was nowhere to be found. He should have been easy to find – he was head and shoulders over everyone else. But he couldn't be found.

So they enquired further of the Lord who told them that Saul was hiding amongst the supplies.

Hiding is what Children do – there is something wrong with a grown man who hides when they are looking for him

Not a good start for a, King who would lead this people into battle? He was so scared that he was curled up and hiding.

Well that was the start of what was an absolute disaster of a reign.

What good would a King do?

To understand how poor Saul was as a King, let's consider what God's vision for the nation of Israel was:

1. A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY: This nation would consist of people who would really know God, and worship him with their lips and from their hearts.
2. A JUST COMMUNITY: This nation would consist of people who would treat one another so well, that they would live in peace and rest, and even the poor would be well cared for.
3. A LIGHT FOR ALL OTHER NATIONS: This nation would be such a model nation, that it would shine like a light to all other nations of what a nation should be.

God's Regret

Well it soon became clear that Saul wasn't going to achieve these aims, and God speaks

again to Samuel, and he says something amazing:

He says he regrets having made Saul King.

1 Samuel 15:11

"I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command." Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the Lord all night.

There are a number of passages in the Bible which on surface reading would seem to be contradictory, this is one of them:

1 Samuel 15:11 (KJV)

It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

1 Samuel 15:29(KJV)

[Listen to this passage](#)

And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent

1 Samuel 15:11(NLT)

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"I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command." Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the Lord all night.

1 Samuel 15:29 (NLT)

And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!"

First the 'Contradiction':

What is happening here is not that God is repenting sin, or being sorry for sin, but what we have is God expressing his emotions over Saul's Kingship.

Saul's Kingship grieved God, and he was sorrowful because of it.

The people asked for a King, they were very strong willed about it, and although they had been warned, God gave them what they asked for – eventhough it was not good for them.

God still does that – Romans 1 is happening all the time – people reject God, and crave after sinful desires – often sexual desires, and

he sometimes he lets them have everything they crave, and it leads to destruction.

'I wish I had listened to you!'

His purpose is not to gloat over them and say I told you so, he is filled with sorrow over the destruction of our lives. His passion is for our salvation, and our ability to live lives full of Joy in the Holy Spirit.

There is no contradiction here – verse 29 asserts that God doesn't repent – but that doesn't mean that he has now emotions – he weeps over our disobedience.

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King David

So God sends Samuel to anoint David as king. David is a boy, who is the most unlikely son of Jesse to be appointed as King over Israel. But God makes it clear that David is the one to be appointed, and so Samuel anoints him as King.

He had a long wait.

There was a twenty year period after this when Saul was still the King, but David had been anointed as his successor. For those 20 years Saul was tormented, and he hunted for David, but the Lord protected David, all the while building his character.

Saul's life ends in battle with the Philistines, when he commits suicide as he realises the battle is lost.

And so David becomes King, but the situation is pretty bleak.

- The nation has been so poorly led.

- The Ark was not in its rightful place.
- A Nation at war – and not doing very well

He has a huge job to do, and it takes time, but eventually he conquers the land.

And the boy shepherd who God had described as being a man after his own heart becomes the most important King of the most important Nation in the world – the nation that God set apart as a place where his name would dwell.

And so the high point in Israel's history comes under the Kingship of David –

- David is firmly established as king.
- Brought the Ark to Jerusalem
- Led the people into a time of peace

2 Sam 5:12

¹²David knew that the LORD had made him king of Israel and that he had made him a powerful ruler for the good of his people

V Monument

What good would a King do?

King Jesus

In King David, we see something of King Jesus. God had promised Abraham that his seed would bless the world. And David knew that this was someone other than himself.

David wrote a psalm about the Messiah that was so powerful that it was the most used psalm in the New Testament. It isn't psalm 23 – as important as that is – it is psalm 110

Psalm 110

A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD said to my Lord,
"Sit in the place of honor at my right hand
until I humble your enemies,
making them a footstool under your feet."

Peter and John and Paul and those who witnessed the miracles, and teaching, the death and resurrection of the Son of God – they all understood this Psalm as describing Jesus –

A Priest and King whose victory over death and sin and hell meant that you and I could become joy filled and willing servants of the King.

Just like David was King for the good of the people – Jesus is King for the good of the people –

He prove that on the Cross – the Cross was for the good of the people

And the objects of Jesus Kingdom are the same as those of David's:

- A Community that worships God (Bob's Dr)
- A Community that cares for the poor (Adama,.)
- A Community that expands (Herwin Sushekti)

It was always God's plan that we would have a King – his name is Jesus – if David's Reign of King was the High Point of Israel –

What good would a King do?

Will you invite Jesus to Reign as King of your life – and you too will enter the high point of your life.

They are already worshipping him right now in the heavenlies:

Rev 5:

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped

- As we sing this song –

Submit yourself to the reign of Jesus in your life. Sometimes we get what we want even if it isn't the best thing for us. Look at him on the cross in your minds eye – and bow before him.

Salvation belongs to our God

Who sits upon the throne
And unto the Lamb

Praise and glory
Wisdom and thanks
Honor and power and strength
Be to our God forever and ever

What good would a King do?

Be to our God forever and ever

And we the redeemed shall be strong
In purpose and unity
Declaring aloud

- **Who Reigns – Jesus or You?**
- **Are you working for the same purposes as he is:**
 - **Heart Worship**
 - **Justice**
 - **Growing Kingdom?**

Lets sing that song once more.