

Introduction:

- 1 Sam. chapters 8-12. These chapters are a powerful transition in the history of Israel. They reveal much about what happens in the heart of the people when they see, or foresee a coming transition.
- Keeping your heart in an election year.
- My goal is to try not to look at the leaders being offered to us this year upon our ballots but to get us to look at our hearts, discern what is going on in there, and find the heart of God. With that in mind, how am I to keep my heart in light of an election year like this one?

I. When The People Are Uncertain 1 Sam 8:1-5

- A. They become fearful for their future. Samuel was old, his sons were corrupt, terror threat was high.
- B. When they become fearful of their future, they reached for almost any change. Hasn't our culture and political climate embraced those words for the last 8 years.
- C. *"Give us a king!"* Why the cry for change? Fear. Let's look at where this fear came from and how it turned the people from God.
 1. Samuel was old. The people lost sight of the God who was in control behind the scenes. Ps 111:2 The people were not content with what they had and began looking for change. They could see Samuel but could not see the God who was leading through him. The judgeship rule really was working for Israel. As the people served God, He raised up judges to lead and to deliver them. This is the failure of the people to keep God in their sight. Their call was unique as a nation. To have a king would make them like all other nations. Their uniqueness would then be gone.
 2. There was the ongoing pressure of terrorists (Philistine and Ammonites). East of the Jordan the Ammonites were putting out the right eye of all the Jewish men. West of Jordan the constant threat of Philistines created an underlying pressure/stress causing more fear. 1 Sam 12:12**.
 3. In Samuel's lack of trust in God he appointed his sons as judges. This had never happened before. God had always done the appointing before. *"But Gideon replied, 'I will not rule over you, nor will my son. The Lord will rule over you!'"* (Judges 8:23, NLT) The people knew that his sons were corrupt. This 'appointing' foreshadowed the 'hereditary' kingship they were asking for rather than the God appointed leader. I.e. Moses, Joshua, Judges, etc.
 4. The corruption of the 'appointed judges', Samuel's sons threatened the future of the people so they wanted a new government like the other nations. It would be a request from the kingship of God to a kingship of men. 8:20 *give us a king*. It was a drastic change from the rule of God to the systems of men.

- a) *"But select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes. Appoint them as leaders over groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten."* (Exodus 18:21, NLT) Samuel did not do this.
 - b) *"You must never twist justice or show partiality. Never accept a bribe, for bribes blind the eyes of the wise and corrupt the decisions of the godly."* (Deuteronomy 16:19, NLT) When people see this kind of leadership they become fearful. Samuel had impeccable character.
5. The request of the people was not just a socio-political transformation they were asking for...it was an offense to God.

II. What Kings Do

- A. It can be summed up in one word: **Take** - Heb: (lāqah) take (get, fetch), lay hold of (seize), acquire (buy), snatch (take away). Kaiser, W. C. (1999). 1124 תָּקַח. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 481). Chicago: Moody Press. This passage is the presentation of the rights of a king. It is what all governments do.
- B. What do kings take: ***This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. 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. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. ¹⁴ And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. ¹⁶ And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest ¹young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants.*** I Sam 8:11-17 NKJV The bigger government gets the more you can count on more being taken.
1. He will take your sons.
 2. He will take your daughters.
 3. He will take your best: fields, vineyards, olive groves, servants
 4. He will take a 10th of your grain, wine, for his officers. The king will (confiscate) take and give to his officers. 1 Sam 22:7. *"Has David promised you fields and positions?"* This tithe is separate from that which was given to the priests.
 5. He will take your servants
 6. He will take your sheep
 7. You will be miserable and cry out for relief because of it.
- C. Why do political leaders/leaders do this?
1. Man because of his fallen nature will naturally gravitate towards pride and selfishness.
 - a) A man without God at the core of his life will move quickly into that realm of pride and selfishness.

- b) A man with God at the core of his life will constantly have to be on guard and purposeful in the watch over his own heart. *"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."* (Proverbs 4:23, NLT)
- 2. 'To take' is the characteristic of sinful humanity. To give is the characteristic of God.
- 3. It is the characteristic of governments to take. "All the people have and they themselves are subject to arbitrary use by the king." Tsumura, D. (2007). *The First Book of Samuel* (p. 259). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- 4. 8:18 implies that Israel's oppression will come from her king not her enemies.

III. What To Do When You Have A King - 1 Sam 12:18-25

A. Man's Part

- 1. Don't be afraid. 1 Sam 12:20. This is not the 'fear of the Lord' that Samuel is speaking of. The people are afraid because of God's response to Samuel's prayers of thunder and rain. They are afraid because the 'invisible God' just made himself visible. Samuel encourages them not be afraid of God but to draw near.
 - a) Knowing what kings do, should make all of us somewhat fearful so we pray and prepare.
 - b) Fear is a sign that we are trusting in our selves. Rest is a sign that we are trusting in God.
 - c) If you find yourself fearful of what lies ahead, seek the place of resting in Christ. That is where you are located (In Him) if you are born again.
- 2. Worship/serve the Lord 1 Sam 12:20
 - a) Worship is a sign of trust
 - b) Worship is a sign of devotion. To do this is to make oneself a subject to God and not to man. "As you get this king, keep your heart devoted, or subjected to God."
 - c) Worship is a sign of celebration, adoration and love.
 - d) Worship is a liberating act not one of bondage.
- 3. Don't go back to sinning 1 Sam 12:20
 - a) Don't go back to idols
 - b) Idols are man made - man made things of worship/(dependency) will fail you
 - (1) even Samuel's hereditary appointment of his sons as judges was 'man made.' He was making an idol out of a God given position of his time.
 - (2) Our part is don't be afraid, worship the Lord, and do not go back to sinning.
- 4. Samuel's Example
 - a) *"As for me, I will certainly not sin against the Lord by ending my prayers for you. And I will continue to teach you what is good and right."* (1 Samuel 12:23, NLT)
 - b) Continue to pray for each other and for those who lead us. *"Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity."* (1 Timothy 2:2, NLT)

- c) Continue to learn what is good and what is right in spite of what politicians do.
- d) Final exhortation: 1 Sam 12:24
 - (1) Fear the Lord- reverence Him. This fear is different from the one above. The change comes because of context. The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him. *"The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant."* (Psalm 25:14, NLT)
 - (2) Faithfully serve Him
 - (3) Remember what wonderful things He has done for you.
 - (4) If you continue to sin, you and your king will be swept away. vs. 25

B. God's Part

1. *"The Lord will not abandon his people, because that would dishonor his great name. For it has pleased the Lord to make you his very own people."* (1 Samuel 12:22, NLT) Abraham- if there are 20,10 righteous...
 - a) abandon - "There are forty occurrences of *nāṭaš* in the ot. About half of these uses carry the idea of forsake or reject; elsewhere, *nāṭaš* frequently means leave, let alone." Wilson, M. R. (1999). 1357 נָטַח. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 577). Chicago: Moody Press. If man will do his part, God assures us that He will do His part.
 - b) To abandon us would be to dishonor His name.
2. God will not abandon because He takes delight in us. From the Message Bible: "... *They're nothing but ghost-gods! God, simply because of who he is, is not going to walk off and leave his people. God took delight in making you into his very own people.*" (1 Samuel 12:22, The Message) God loved us so much that He gave His one and only son. When we believe in Jesus we become the righteousness of God in Christ. That delights the heart of God."

Conclusion:

- My part is to not be afraid, but to worship and keep my heart pure before God.
- God's part is to take delight in me and not abandon me. In that we can find the place of rest.
- My part is to also take responsibility:
 - Pray for those in authority 1 Timothy 2:2
 - Vote and to vote the most informed I can.
 - Party Platforms
 - Republican: <https://prod-static-ngop-pbl.s3.amazonaws.com/static/home/data/platform.pdf>
 - Democratic: <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Democratic-Party-Platform-7.21.16-no-lines.pdf>
- Invitation to receive Christ.