

Captivated by Babylon

now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. 1 Sam 8:5

Samuel's Leadership



Decline under Kings of Israel and Judah



Babylonian Captivity



1. Tribal leaders made decisions under Prophets Guidance (1 Sam 8:4; 7:3)
2. Land belonged to family tribes (Gen 12:7; 13:7)
3. Worship fostered by Prophets Guidance (1 Sam 3:19,20)
4. No Taxation to Service Kingly Court (1 Sam 8:17)
5. Son's and daughters not taken from families to service kingly court (1 Sam 8:11,13)

1. King made decisions. Sometimes Prophets had influence and mostly not.
2. Land belonged to family tribes, but much land taken by King.
3. Worship directed by King and enforced by soldiers. Few Kings directly rightly.
4. People taxed to support Kingly Court
5. Son's and daughters taken from families to service kingly court
6. Grossly immoral practices increased

1. Slaves and captives (2 Kings 24:15,16)
2. Land taken by Babylon (2 Kings 24:7)
3. Forced to worship false gods by King of Babylon (Dan 3:1-5)
4. Son's and daughters taken to service kingly court (Dan 1:3,4)
5. Surrounded by gross moral conduct and abandoned appetites (Dan 5:1-4)

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| AIM: | To show how Satan attacked God’s people and caused their national downfall by tempting them to want a governmental system like the other nations |
| THEME: | Christ as King. |
| OUTLINE: | <p>Under the leadership of Samuel, Israel maintained a high degree of autonomy and freedom. The Israelites were still led by parental, tribal leaders and guided by the prophet. Satan tempted the Israelites to desire to be like the other nations that had patterned themselves on the principles of Nimrod’s kingdom principles. Samuel warned the people with these fearful words:</p> <p>And he said, This will be the privilege of the king who shall reign over you. He shall take your sons and appoint <i>them</i> for himself, for his chariots, and his horsemen. And they shall run before his chariots. And <i>he</i> will appoint commanders over thousands, and commanders over fifties, and some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and make his weapons of war and weapons for his chariots. And he will take your daughters <i>to be</i> perfumers and cooks and bakers. And he will take your fields and your vineyards and your olive-yards, the best, and give <i>them</i> to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed and of your vineyards, and give <i>it</i> to his eunuchs and to his servants. And he will take your male slaves and your slave girls, and your finest young men, and your asses, and put <i>them</i> to his work.</p> <p>He will take the tenth of your sheep, and you shall be his servants. 1 Sam 8: 10-17</p> <p>But the people refused to listen. Rom 6:16 says to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey – His servants you are! Israel prepared themselves to become servants and slaves to Satan. The transferral from Parental leadership to Kingly leadership removed the element of paternal affection and this led to Israel’s downfall. This prepared them to become slaves to Babylon.</p> <p>It is worthy to note that God’s people are not Babylon but their hearts are captivated by her system of government which is a system of death. God’s remnant church is not Babylon but we often emulate her in desire for kingly power and displays of pride. For this very reason God warns the church of Laodicea – You think you are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing but you are wrong! May we heed the warning and humble ourselves before God</p> |
| NOTES: | <p>The nation of Israel was established on God’s kingdom principles. We see the true position of a Father when Jacob blesses the king of Egypt. God had promised Israel that “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” Gen 49:10. Through the family line of Jacob, the Messiah would come. If Satan could wipe out this line, he may prevent the coming of the Messiah. It was also critical for Satan to twist the meaning of family values to marr the image of God;s kingdom in the family. Satan tempted the Israelites to desire a king, to be like the other nations. This decision would have been their total downfall if God had not sent Daniel to work on behalf of God’s people to have them returned to Israel from Babylon.</p> |
| FURTHER STUDY: | <p>Patriarchs and Prophets Chapter 59 “The First King of Israel” Prophets and Kings Chapter 37 “Carried Captive into Babylon” Life Matters Chapter 17 “Give Us a King Like the Other Nations”</p> |