

“Poor Choices”

1 Samuel 8

“and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.” (8:5)

In Deut. 17:14-20, God anticipated a day when Israel would ask for a king ‘like the other nations’. Even though God outlined what He wanted in a king, when this time came they didn’t follow Deut. 17. All choices (no matter how small) set in motion a series of events and circumstances that sometimes lead us where we never thought we would go. They can seem good at the time but over time may prove to have been poor choices. Here in 1 Sam. 8 Israel’s choice of a king goes against God’s Word. What happens when we make poor choices?

“Poor Choices Lead to Dissatisfaction” (8:1-9)

At the end of ch. 7 what was Samuel’s habit as judge of Israel?

7:16 “From _____ to _____ he went on a circuit from Bethel [east] to Gilgal [west] to Mizpah [north], judging Israel in _____ those places”

Now in ch. 8 we have moved 20-30 years ahead. What’s changed?

8:1 “When Samuel grew _____ he appointed his _____ as judges for Israel. The name of the firstborn was _____ and the name of his second was _____ and they served at _____ [south].”

Joel = Yahweh is God

Abijah = Yahweh is my Father

Despite the godly names and a godly father, what were Samuel’s sons like?

8:3 “But his sons did _____ walk in his ways. They turned aside to _____ gain and Accepted _____ And _____ justice.”

See these passages that clearly showed they violated the law.

Ex. 23:6

Ex. 23:8

Deut. 16:19

***What do Abijah’s and Joel’s sins remind us of?**

***What mistake (apparently) does Samuel repeat that Eli made?**

***We are told about Samuel's birth and childhood (ch;s2-3) and an example of his leadership role in ch. 7. Yet every-thing else we know about Samuel (ch. 8-25) is when he is "old". What applications may we draw from this?**

The elders of Israel make a good choice but then a bad choice. What do they decide to do?

8:4-5 "Then all the elders of Israel gathered _____ and came to Samuel at Ramah; and they said to him, They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your _____; now appoint a _____ to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

How does Samuel view their choice?

8:6 "But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this _____ Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD."

Why was Samuel displeased?

8:7 "And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not __ they have rejected, but they have rejected __ as their king."

***Was God displeased because they asked for a king or because they rejected Him as their king?**

While the elders wisely confronted Samuel about his sons' sin, they are guilty of their own sin. What is it?

8:8 "As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, _____ me and serving other ____, so they are doing to you."

God allows them to have a king. But unwise choices will result in bitter circumstances. So what does God tell Samuel?

8:9 "Now listen to them; but _____ them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will _____."

"Poor Choices Bring Consequences" (8:10-21)

So Samuel warns them about what having a king will bring:

8:11 their sons will be taken to serve in his a_____

8:12 some will be _____ in the army, some will work in his _____
Some will make _____ for his army

8:13 their daughters will work in his _____

8:14 He will take the best of your _____

8:15 he will tax you 1/10 of your _____ to feed his staff

8:16 he will take your best _____ and _____

8:17 some of you will become his _____

What did God say (through Samuel) how the people will respond?

8:18 “When that day comes you will cry out for _____ from the king _____ have chosen and the Lord will _____ answer you in that day.”

***Is God fair in warning them of their choices?**

What impact did Samuel’s [God’s] warning have on them?

8:19 “But the people _____ to listen to Samuel. ‘No! They said, We want a king over us.

8:20 “Then we will be like the other _____ with a king to lead us and to go out before us and _____ our battles.”

What was God’s answer to this?

8:21 “Listen to _____ and give them a _____.”

***Does God sometimes answer our [selfish] prayers so we get what we ask for?**

***There is one positive aspect here in v.22 from the people. What was it?**

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