**That We May Be Like All the Nations**

*1 Samuel 8*

**Introduction**

1. 1 Samuel chapter 8 records the children of Israel making a request to Samuel for a king.
2. While the future God has for Israel may include a king, it was not at this time God had determined to do so (**cf. Deuteronomy 17:14-20**).
3. Their request shows a lack of faith in God, a greater faith in themselves, and a lack of contentment with what they had from God as a nation.
4. We can learn from their mistakes.
5. Israel Demands a King (**1 Samuel 8)**
6. Their Request **(v. 1-5)**
   1. For a long time since the Exodus, Israel was ruled by judges (**cf. Acts 13:17-20**).
   2. This was not enough for the people (**v. 5)** – key phrase, ***“like all the nations.”***
      1. Excuse was that he was old – **“he would live for most of the years of Saul’s reign (forty years)”** [Bob Waldron, Edited by Mike Willis. Truth Commentaries - 1 and 2 Samuel. Guardian of Truth Foundation.]
      2. *Excuse that his sons didn’t walk in his way. (God has dealt with unrighteous leaders before.)*
      3. **The ultimate reason for their request was that they be like other nations.**
      4. **This was wrong, for all throughout the law is the emphasis of holiness/sanctification. They are the Lord’s people, and are to be separate. *(They did not express that attitude here. It was not enough that God was their king.)***
7. God to Samuel **(v. 6-9**)
   1. (**v. 7-8)** – God explained their attitude. They are rejecting God, as they have in the past. ***They simply aren’t satisfied with the arrangement as God being their king. (cf. 10:18-19)***
   2. **(v. 9)** – God tells Samuel to give them what they want, but tell them how bad it will be.
8. Samuel’s explanation of the king to Israel (**v. 10-18**)
   1. The king would take from them more than he would give.
   2. **(v. 18)** – **Under the oppressive rule of the king they would become restless and dissatisfied. God would not listen to their cries.**
9. The People’s stubborn response **(v. 19-22**)
   1. **(v. 19-20)** – Despite the detailed warning about how the king would reign, they were obdurate, and demanded a king.
   2. ***“that we also may be like all the nations”*** – more concerned with being like others than being sanctified to God.
   3. ***“and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles”*** – lack of faith in God to fight for them, and to be a sufficient provider/leader/caretaker.
   4. **Ultimately showed a lack of faith in God, and an inappropriate faith in self**.
      1. *They thought their idea was better than God’s arrangement.*
      2. That is never the case **(cf. 1 Corinthians 3:18** – ***“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.”***)
10. “That We May Be Like All the Nations” attitude today…

* **The Israelites were not content with God’s arrangement. They thought it was ineffective, and thought they had a better plan.**
* **They had (1) a lack of faith in God, (2) instead a faith in self, and a (3) feeling of shame and inferiority compared to other nations – even though God was on their side.**
* **This same attitude is present with some today in the church, and some churches as a whole, as they reject God’s arrangement, and make their own.**

1. The Social Gospel
   1. **Romans 1:16-17** – The gospel is spiritual in nature, and is purposed toward spiritual nourishment and salvation.
   2. **1 Timothy 3:15** – The church is the pillar and ground of the truth – the gospel.
   3. Some do not think spiritual matters are as important as physical/social matters.
      1. **They are ashamed of the gospel, unlike Paul, when they do not preach, teach, and stand for the unadulterated truth.**
      2. *They seek to satiate the physical desires, rather than the more important spiritual matters* (**cf. John 6:26-27 – after feeding the five thousand**.).
   4. **2 Timothy 4:2-5** – Some will not desire the pure truth, but soft teaching which pleases their ears. (*This shows their lack of faith in God, and desire to be like others, hearing what they hear*.)
   5. **Often times these events are held by churches, and a soft message is preached in order to get people into the building**.
      1. They do not think God’s word alone is powerful enough. They revert to other methods.
      2. *God has given one method – the preaching of the gospel. To do any other thing is to show faith in self, not God, and many times to be like others.*
2. Seeking to be like the world.
   1. **1 Peter 2:9-12** – as Christians we are holy. We must be different – godly and pure.
      1. We cannot go after the things of the world.
      2. We are in the world, but not of the world. We are here temporarily!
   2. **Romans 12:1-2** – We are not to conform to the world (be like them), but be transformed by God’s word (be as God wants us to be).
      1. Some do not want to be different. They want to fit in, or ***“conform.”***
      2. **This shows a lack of faith in God** – ultimately that it will be worth it (heaven).
      3. **This shows a shame in being a person of God.**
   3. Just like the children of Israel were, so we are sanctified. **We are different.** **This is nothing we should be ashamed of.**

**Conclusion**

1. The Israelites failed to trust in God when they desired a king.
   1. They did not have faith in God’s way.
   2. They had faith in their own way.
   3. They were ultimately ashamed of God’s way, and wanted to be like others.
2. We cannot make the same mistake as Christians.
   1. God’s way is the best way – He is all wise.
   2. We should not be ashamed of God’s way. We are to be content, and love Him, not man.