

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

Give Us A King

1 Samuel 8:18: And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

The uniqueness of the the nation of Israel is that they were governed by the invisible, omnipotent God. It required faith rather than sight to be contented with the divine arrangement. Their history of God's protection and benefit should have given them all the confidence needed to be assured that God would continue to guide the people into future prosperity.

But the people grew impatient with this Theocracy and with their prophet/judge, Samuel. They wanted to be "like all the nations" who boasted of some self-proclaimed Uberman who would solve all the ills of the people in exchange for their unflinching devotion. The Vox Populi demanded "Give us a king"; a king they could see and glorify with worldly accoutrements. One who would don the noble crown and bear the golden scepter. One who, once ensconced on the jewel-encrusted throne, would embody the hopes and ideals of the aspiring nation.

This demand was met with Samuel's displeasure and elicited God's resignation: "they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them". Such a rejection by any nation is a formula for failure. Psalm 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God".

Indeed, a nation that rejects God will face the consequence of having to endure evil men ruling over them, bringing in their wake a flood of immoral edicts, burdensome taxes, and the usurpations of individual freedoms. They may come to their senses and rue the choice they have made, but the Lord will not hear them!

When the true King of the Jews made his appearance two thousand years ago, he was rejected partly because He did not arrive with the proper pedigree and did not present Himself with regal habiliments and angelic hosts. It required the eye of faith to determine the validity of His government. "We will not have this man to reign over us" was the hue and cry from the recalcitrant multitude and then adding to the insult: "We have no king but Caesar". Forty years later Caesar marshaled his forces against them and crushed them in return for their loyalty.

True believers understand that our kingdom is "not of this world" nor is our King. Our hopes do not rise and fall depending on the momentary success or failure of some flawed messianic politico. We are commanded to pray for our earthly potentates but our ultimate allegiance belongs "unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen".

Have a blessed week,

Pastor

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Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17