

1 Samuel 7-8

Hello, it is great to be here with you all tonight.

Tonight we are going to continue our study of 1 Samuel, we will be in chapters 7 through 8.

Let us pray before we get into our study.

Now, remember Samuel, our main character has been missing from the narrative for the last three chapters.

We saw him early on dedicated to the Lord as a toddler, and he grew before the Lord in the tabernacle, serving in the priestly duties.

He was not of the family of Aaron, although he was a Levite, but we saw the high priest Eli took Samuel in, and even allowed him to wear the ephod of a priest.

Eli's own sons were corrupt and debased, and they used their positions of authority for their own selfish gain.

Eli saw his sons were lost, and he looked to Samuel as a second chance and poured into him.

Samuel the boy not only caught the eye of the high priest, but God's Hand was on the boy's life.

We saw as God's Word had been absent from the nation of Israel for many years now, God began to speak again, and it was the young man Samuel who heard Him.

The boy had no idea what was taking place, so he ran to his master Eli, where Eli sent him back to bed, multiple times this took place, and finally Eli, realized what was taking place.

He told the boy to go back to bed, and when the voice speaks, to reply “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.”

And God gave Samuel his first prophetic word.

It was judgement upon the house of Eli.

Eli and his boys would have the priesthood taken from them.

And chapters 4-6 departed from the boy Samuel to the fulfillment of that judgement.

And a great battle ensued between the pagan Philistine army and the army of Israel.

Israel was beaten back, and they called for the ark of the Lord, and Eli’s boys Hophni and Phinehas arrogantly brought the ark to the battlefield.

The armies of Israel were once again defeated, and the two scoundrel priests were killed and the ark was captured.

The news of this terrible loss was brought back to Eli, and at the word of what happened, his obese body fell backwards, and his neck broke, and the judgement was fulfilled.

The Philistines took the ark as a trophy, and God began to show that He would be no man’s trophy, and He

began to judge the Philistines and He made a mockery of their false god Dagon.

Eventually they surrendered, and allowed the ark of the covenant to go back to the people that it belonged too.

But when it arrived back the men of Beth Shemesh were careless before the Holy ark.

And they too were struck down in judgement, and chapter 6 ended with the careless worshippers pleading with the Levites in Kirjath Jearim to take the ark.

And we read now, verse 1 of chapter 7...

Israel Defeats the Philistines

7:1 Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the Lord, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the Lord.

Samuel Judges Israel

2 So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

The men of Kirjath Jearim honored the Holy ark. They consecrated Eleazar, and that man's whole ministry was to care for the Holy article.

It will remain here close to a century, until king David brings it to Jerusalem.

We see the house of Israel was lamenting over their defeat and it would take some time for them to recover.

Shiloh, the center for the worship of their God had been destroyed and the winds of change were blowing through the weakened nation.

The Philistines ruled over them.

Now, we see a time stamp is given, 20 years have gone by since the great humbling of losing the ark of the Lord and it returning to them.

And during that 20 years, much had changed.

Eli was no longer the priest, and he could no longer protect Samuel.

Samuel would be seen as an outsider who was doted over by Eli, the new regime would not be so kind to him.

In fact, we will no longer see Samuel acting as priest in the tabernacle, but he will emerge as a prophet and a judge, Israel's final judge.

And it really seems like the remaining descendants of Eli cast Samuel out of the ministry.

He was only a Levite by birth, he had no right to the priesthood.

Samuel would be forced to return to Ramah his home. After giving up his whole childhood and best part of his life to the ministry, the ministry has rejected him.

Now, we will see the rejection of man will have no impact on his service to the Lord, there will be no hint of bitterness or regret in Samuel.

He loves the Lord and serves Him, not man.

We all face rejection and disappointment in our life, and Samuel really sets forth a great example on how to deal with it.

A person's character is refined and defined through the disappointments in life, how you go from them determine if you will find success in the future, or if you will become enslaved by bitterness and turmoil.

Have you ever been disappointed in the ministry, maybe you have heard the Lord, and know that He has called you to a certain ministry, and yet, things suddenly move the opposite direction than you planned and hoped for.

Understand if God has called you, and you have heard Him clearly, be patient, the disappointment just might be a refining trial.

I remember our worship pastor Josh, well, he and I have served together since he was about 15 or 16 years old.

It was obvious early on that God had gifted him, and even called him into the ministry.

He grew and matured as the youth worship leader, and filled in often in the main sanctuary.

Well, the main worship leader got hurt, and Josh was called to step in for him for a few months.

Josh was faithful, Josh did a wonderful job, during that time he had begun to feel the calling into fulltime ministry.

Eventually, it was revealed that the former worship leader would not be able to return to his post, and I remember sitting in the elders meeting, when the Lord spoke to the leadership, that one of pastor Josh's best friends who was off at college at the time, was who God wanted to fill that role.

It was difficult, I saw Josh so faithful, and it seemed so obvious that he should be the one, I volunteered to break the news to Josh.

Now, we went to lunch and we chatted about the decision, and he was a little hurt and confused by the elders bringing Pastor Jacob on instead of him.

I shared with him how I experienced the same thing, I was asked at one point to come on as a youth pastor by the leadership of a church, and the very next day, they called me and said they had found a better qualified person.

I remember spiraling out of control, I was hurt and embarrassed, and I remember I wanted to leave the church, and bitterness began to well up in my heart.

My father asked me one question when I told him this, he said, “Who are you serving? If it is God, then keep serving Him, if you are serving for man’s praise and respect than by all means leave the church and find somewhere that will recognize you.”

From that conversation, Jess and I resolved to stay put, and over time, it was evident we were not even close to ready for what we thought we were called too, and God knew it.

And we just kept serving the Lord, and eventually over the years as God worked in our lives, God prepared us for fulltime ministry.

I told Josh that he has no idea what God has in store for his life, and sometimes God uses disappointment to refine us for our next appointment.

After hearing that, Josh said, “I will keep serving the Lord.” And he was faithful, he served with no malice in his heart, and you know it was not long after that we were both called here to Victorville.

And now he is in fulltime ministry, can you imagine if through his disappointment he threw his hands up and just gave up?

He kept on, and God’s call was on his life it just looked a lot different than he thought it would.

And you know, God's plan is always better.

If you ask Josh, he is happy God called him here with all of you, this is right for him.

So Samuel, stayed faithful even after being ousted from the ministry, God will raise him up and use his life greatly.

Samuel is going to be the bridge between the eras of judges to the age of the monarchy.

Let's read now verses 3-6

3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines." 4 So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the Lord only. 5 And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you." 6 So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the Lord. And they fasted that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the Lord." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.

Through those twenty patient years, Samuel stayed in touch with his countrymen, and he stayed faithful to God's Word.

He sowed the Seed of God's Word and over time it began to wash the people's minds and truth began to draw them to repentance.

It is something for us to consider, as a ministry in our culture today.

We have committed ourselves to God's Word, and many times, it can look like perhaps we are having little or no impact, other places can create atmospheres of excitement and thrills.

And it seems so often that the world's ways have taken over the worship of the one true God.

We are not so different from Israel in Samuel's Day.

Look in verses 3-4 Samuel is challenging the people to do away with the world's influence in their lives and worship.

They did not like the self-denial and sacrifice that their faith called them to.

Yahweh had become boring to them, the stories of the Red Sea parting, the Egyptian Army being destroyed, even Joshua's conquest were now only stories.

The people craved more, and the religion of the day caved to their carnal demands, they brought in the Ashtoreths and Baal worship.

The sensual fleshly appeal from these worldly faiths were incorporated into Jewish worship.

No longer did they worship a God they could not see, they could grasp an idol and an idol that demanded erotic worship at that.

And I am sure at first it was innocent, “we can co-mingle these things on a mild scale, just to attract people back to the sanctuary of God, we will still teach them truth, we will just dangle this to get them in.”

And the rush and colors of it all overwhelmed the tedious, tiresome worship of Yahweh.

Soon the worship looked no different from what the world around them was putting out.

It makes you think today, what the church has given up, in the way of entertaining the masses.

I sat in bed the other night and watched a worship set from the leading churches putting out worship today, the lights were spectacular, the adrenaline of the crown was flowing, the experience was amazing, and the thrill was evident.

The appeal to the senses were powerful.

And I leaned over to Jess, and I asked her, is there anything Biblical about any of this?

We could not find any scriptural support for what worship has become today.

But people leave these experiences saying they have experienced God, as though Jesus was there Himself tickling their senses.

But it is more obvious, that it is an over compensation, perhaps of the lack of God's presence.

"Listen, they won't come and hear God's Word taught anymore, Disneyland is making billions and getting people to come with lights and smoke, and lasers, surely we can just do that."

"We can get them in to church if we appeal to their senses, forget that the bible calls us to be self-denial, and serving others, and let's make a religion that is lively and attractive."

And that is the compromise of our age, and it is not much different that Samuel's day.

It is also instruction for us here, I get accused of many things, one of which, is I am not taking the church in the right direction, the culture is not being reached, something else needs to be done.

But we can learn much from this Ox, Samuel, let's cling to God's Word, and trust that someday, maybe not on our timeline, but we can trust that God is working in His time.

And we will find that His Word is enough to reach our culture, and as God shows Himself, there will be no confusion, and God will get the glory over any showman.

We see Samuel for twenty years, faithfully teaching God's Word, working the work of an Ox, the Seed that has been sown is showing signs of fruit.

And apart from the corrupt religion that Samuel was cast away from their at Mizpah, the heartbeat of Revival begins to thump.

Samuel gathers the nation to repent, and the people put away their false gods, and they are returning to God and the one man teaching plainly the Word of God.

They are seeing through the flash and fog of that day's religion, and Truth is now supreme over their flesh.

And we see in verse 5 this great prophet is a praying man, and we will see throughout his life, that this is the key to his ministry.

James 5:14

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

The people gather, and in verse 6 we see something strange, they drew water, and poured it out before the Lord.

This seems to be part of their pledge to the Lord, their commitment will be like that of this water, as you can only draw this water once, and once it is in the ground it cannot be drawn up again, so their renewal and recommitment to the Lord is unchanging and binding.

They fasted that day in humility before the Lord, and confessed their sins against God.

And Samuel was established as the nation's leader, and final judge here at the Revival of Mizpah.

Please see here what constitutes a biblical revival, it is not setting up a tent and performing healing miracles, and calling it a revival.

God's Spirit orchestrates a revival, and it comes when the Word of God so impacts a group of people, that they lay down their gods and repent of their sins and turn from their rebellion in humility.

Today, perhaps you think idolatry is not an issue like it was in the days of Samuel.

Understand the greatest threat to Christians today are not little statues and external idols, but internal idols of materialism, hedonism or self-indulgent lifestyles.

The god of selfishness or the god of pleasure.

These are the competing gods of our day, blinding us of the truth of God's Word.

And we must be honest about them, and call them for what they are if we are to do away with these things that are competing for God's supremacy in our lives.

So the people are gathered together, national repentance is taking place, and understand this, we can count on it.

Whenever God starts to move, and hearts are being drawn to Him, the enemy is also stirred and we can expect opposition.

The multitude of Israelites looks like an army amassing to their overlords, so we read now in verses 7-11.

7 Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. 8 So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."

9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. Then Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him.

10 Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the Lord thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. 11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

Dr. Kaiser is worth noting here.... He says....

"Mark it well: whenever there are deep stirrings of the Spirit of God in the renewing and reviving of lives, there the evil one will also be just as active in

attempting to counter all the good work that has been done.”

The Philistine army is awoken by what they think is a threat, and this will prove to be a great misconception by them.

The army gathers and the Israelites tremble, and they ask Samuel the prayer warrior to pray on their behalf. For which Samuel took a baby lamb, and offered it up as a whole burnt offering before the Lord, and Samuel cried out and at the end of verse 9, it says the Lord answered him.

He did so through a thunderstorm, and the storm came against the Philistines and confused them, and Israel went forth in their renewed strength and commitment to the Lord.

They were able to beat back their more powerful enemy with a great victory.

Repentance leads to being refreshed, renewed in the Lord.

Maybe some of you are bogged down in your faith tonight...

Maybe you are beat down tonight and you feel defeated in your walk with God, and you have been caving into the flesh, and victory seems impossible.

Paul told the church in Ephesus [Eph. 4:22-24](#)

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

The nation of Israel marched forward in victory, because they put off the corruption and deceitful lusts, and came to the Lord humbly in repentance.

This is the pattern to being renewed, and this is how your spirit can be refreshed tonight.

You can put on the new man, the man that God created you to be, in true righteousness and holiness.

You can watch the Philistines flee before your God, and your mighty enemy can be destroyed.

You must understand God is the true hero of this battle, and He is more than capable of taking on your enemy tonight.

Is it addiction, is it lying, is it cheating, what is that has you bound tonight?

Turn it over to our mighty God. And watch Him lead you into victory.

In verse 12, we see Samuel set up a memorial stone, and called it Ebenezer, as we sung tonight...

“Here I raise my Ebenezer;

Hither by thy help I’m come;

And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.”

We sing it often, and perhaps you have never known the meaning, maybe you thought it had to do with Ebenezer Scrooge?

Well it comes from this text... As Samuel set up a way for Israel to remember this great victory.

Ebenezer means “Stone of Help.”

And Samuel says “thus far the Lord has helped us.”

You see when the people see this stone, when Samuel sees this stone, it will remind them that God is with them, and the God who helped before will continue to Help.

The founder of the China Inland Mission, Hudson Taylor had a plaque displayed in each of his residences that read, “Ebenezer – Jehovah Jireh.”

Together the Hebrew says, “The Lord has helped us to this point, and He will see to it from now on.” Wiersbe p.225

Some of you have experienced great moves of God, you have seen God do the impossible in your life, but now those times are a distant memory, and life has whisked by, and you have no stones of remembrance to hold onto the truths of God that you knew so profoundly before.

I was looking at pictures this week, I wanted to show a friend my wedding picture, so I went searching through the my old pictures on my computer, I found the picture, and my oh my, Jessica and I were so messed up from our stint in the world in our wedding pictures.

We looked lost, and our souls were empty, and I looked down in that same folder of pictures and saw a picture where Jess and I had life in our eyes, and our spirit was alive.

I wanted to know the time between the pictures, and it was only a year.

In one year Jesus had transformed us from the inside out, it was such an awesome find, and Ebenezer, a time we can look back upon, and see that God Helped us in our hour of need.

You know the Ebenezer's in our life, these stones of remembrance are so crucial.

Sometimes when you are faced with uncertainties and big changes in your life, it might take just simply having a moment, where you pray and reflect on all that God as done for you.

Reflect on the God who has helped you in times past, and know that He will help again.

And that moment of reflection becomes the launching place for you to step out in faith for the new journey God has you on.

Samuel knows God helped him, and will continue to be faithful to him.

And God used Samuel to lead the Israelites into national revival and the first period of peace in a very long time.

Look at the rest of this chapter with me starting in verse 13...

13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. 14 Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

15 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. 16 He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places. 17 But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

The tribes of Israel seemingly for the first time in the era of Judges are unified under God, and a godly leader.

Even lost territory was gained back, and a sense of peace and calm has come over Israel, after decades of

oppression and hardships they are free once again, free to worship God, their deliverer.

Samuel is the unrivaled leader, he is going on a preaching circuit through the cities of Israel, and God's Word is going forth once again.

Samuel is judging the nation according to God's Word, and we see prosperity and blessing on His covenant people.

We see Samuel returns to his home often, the home he was forced to leave as a small child.

He made a life for himself in Ramah, started a family, and things are where they need to be in Israel.

But understand as we have seen over and over again, peace and calm seem to be a greater danger to the people of God than warring nations.

It is there that complacency and apathy creep in and stir the discontent once again against their God.

God's people are always been best in battle, we were created for the doing and going, if it is comfort and ease you are seeking in your Christian life, than it is certain you are headed toward complacency and apathy.

The people of God were not made for comfort in this life, we are to be laying down our lives here, and looking for the rest in the next life.

Here we are to go, do, and engage in the work of the Lord.

We were not made for the Comfortable Christian Culture we see so prevalent today, but we were made to go and make disciples of the nations, we were made for reaching the lost, those who are trapped in darkness, we were to bring them the light of Christ.

We are made to tear down strong holds; we were made for so much more than tea parties, and being entertained.

And as we will see here, the people will grow discontent in their peace time, and once again they will break God's heart as they demand a human king over the King of kings, their God.

We see now a new generation comes to their place in God's Story, and change will be demanded.

But first we read in verses 1 through 5 of chapter 8...

Israel Demands a King

8:1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel (Yahweh is God), and the name of his second, Abijah (Yahweh is Father); they were judges in Beersheba. 3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5 and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

We see now Samuel has become an old man, so some time has passed here.

And when other people would be looking to retire, to find a place to slow down, Samuel will now enter into the most dynamic part of his ministry.

Samuel would began the transition from the time of the judges to the time of kings.

We see like the priest Eli, Samuel's sons turned away from the Lord.

They used their position to make dishonest gain, to take bribes, and they perverted justice.

Perhaps Samuel took on the parenting skills Eli portrayed for him in his own early developmental years.

Remember Eli was a coward, and could not be the disciplinarian he needed to be, he spoiled his boys, and they became corrupt.

**Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son,
But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.**

Now, Samuel of course could have had a different style of parenting being a man of God, the name of his sons

testify to the fact that he may have raised them properly.

And surely he would not be the only godly parent who lost their child's heart to their own sinful ways.

All we can do is present our children with truth we cannot force them to believe as we do.

We hope in **Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.**

But the choice is still theirs to make.

Some commentators suggest that Samuel's time on the circuit preaching away from home, created a contempt for the ministry in these boys.

I know my father to this day says one of his greatest regrets is all the late nights and days away from family for what he thought was ministry.

He poured his life into people, who simply did what they wanted to do anyway, no matter what council they got.

He missed ball games, dance recitals, and he did his best, but the ministry made our early childhood like a blur for him, and before he knew it we were gone.

He pleads with me now to take time for my family, he says the demand of ministry will steal those vital years from my kids if I let it.

So Jess and I try to find a balance, and there are weeks or months we get it wrong, but we are watching our babies grow so fast, and we don't want to miss it.

Samuel lost his kids on the altar of ministry, and this brought Israel to a crisis point.

The elders gathered and pointed out the obvious, "Samuel you are old, and your kids are worthless."

There is no vision for the next generation in Samuel's ministry.

To his credit he laid down his life for the ministry, but he messed up in thinking he would always be around to minister.

There has to be a vision to hand things off, Samuel knew his sons were not the successors of this rule, he isolated their corrupt rule to Beersheba only.

Maybe he thought they could learn how to lead a nation in a smaller area, but they never crested to what he hope for.

And there is a huge void in leadership.

So they demand a king.

Notice, it is not God's will they are seeking, they are not looking to even raise up a godly leader.

They want a king like the rest of the people around them.

Again, in complacency they turn to the world for their model of success.

I wonder if the church today could be accused of the same thing.

In its complacency, in its lack of engagement in the battle, it is now looking to the world, instead of God's Word for its model of success.

So Israel wants a king because everyone else has one...

Verses 6-9...

6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. 8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day — with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also. 9 Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

Once again Israel turns their backs on their God, who was their King.

God assures Samuel that it is not him or his leadership they are rejecting but it is God.

God says they are repeating the what they have done since they left Egypt.

But God tells Samuel to heed their voice.

Now, perhaps Israel's biggest sin here was not that they were asking for a king, it was their demand for a king immediately.

You see God had plans for a king in Israel, He was raising up a shepherd boy to lead His people, David the son of Jesse.

But Israel was not ready for a king just yet.

We know that God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have kings as decedents.

Jacob named Judah a kingly tribe.

In the law, Moses made provisions for a king, but they were not willing to wait.

And God will give them a king, but Saul will not come from Judah, he will come from Benjamin, and he will be use by God to chastise Israel's impatience and demand.

Sometimes the greatest judgement we can experience is when God lets us have our own way, and gives us what we demand.

Now, God is a God of truth, and He wants to give the people the reality of what a king means for them.

He wants His people to move ahead with their eyes wide open...

And next Samuel tells them what this new chapter of the monarchy will entail...

10 So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. 11 And he said, "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 young 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. 18 And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day."

19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, and

that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the Lord. 22 So the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king."

And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

So Samuel lays out a very long negative list of what the monarchy will mean for them.

These are the consequences of having a centralized government.

God wants the people to know what it is precisely that they are asking for.

There will be a cost to this new form of government, but they are convinced that the positives will outweigh the negatives.

I wonder if these people today who are demanding free healthcare, free college, and are looking to government to fulfill all their dreams, I wonder if they really care that socialism has destroyed every nation it has ever been tried in.

People only see what they want, they think that it cannot possibly happen to them.

They see Venezuela up in smoke, and the government sitting fat, and they argue, but ours is a democratic socialism, which is really plain old socialism.

But this is not a new phenomenon, we see here, even with clear warnings of what a tyrannical government will mean.

They don't care, because a king can lead their armies like the rest of the nations.

You see this is a new generation, who have only heard of what God did to the Philistines, they are a generation who lived in a prosperous and peaceful time, and the lack of fight has created a prideful and foolish generation.

They don't care about the Bible stories, they have forsaken the idea that it was God who has delivered their people time and time again.

It was a Divine Thunderstorm in Mizpah that led to their era of peace, but in their discontent they demand a king to do what God has always done.

And they are a selfish people, who vote for a form of government based only on the thought of what they will get out of it, instead of what was right.

God warned them, and gave them a chance, and they demanded a king all the more.

And God tells Samuel to head their voice, and Samuel sends everyone home, and we will meet the people's king next week.

And although Samuel did not favor this idea of a king, he will love their king, and he will try to work with Saul to lead the people as God wants him too.

We will see the great prophet grieve over Saul's mistakes.

And what a heart break for a man who gave his life to the ministry of God's Word, he served even when the establishment rejected him, he prevailed over Israel's enemies, and he will watch the next generation began to unravel all the work he did to get Israel to this point of blessing.

The take away for us tonight, I believe we can model our lives after this man Samuel, the Ox, who steady and strong in God's Word.

The new winds of doctrine that blew through the culture did not change his method.

He stayed faithful to His God, and His Word, and in his prayers, and revival and deliverance came.

As Paul told the Ephesian church **Eph. 4:14-15 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ**

May we be steadfast in the Truth of God's Word, not chasing after every new thing that blows in and out of the church.

And prayfully, we will be led by God's Word in our model and structure of ministry, and not embrace this culture of emotion and sensation.

When we remain steadfast, when we are a repentant people, humbly coming before our God, than we are ripe for a move of God's Spirit.

I am hoping to see His Spirit sweep across this nation once again.

Why can't we hope for this? For Revival, a biblical revival as we cling to His Word.

Let us pray...