

Give Us A King! 1 Samuel 8

God's plan, from the beginning, has always been to be our King

God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28

The King the people WANTED: We foolishly think God is holding out on us

"Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." 1 Samuel 8:5

- We foolishly want what everyone else has. 1 Samuel 8:1-9

"Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." 1 Samuel 8:5

"When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman." Deuteronomy 17:14-15

- We foolishly assume rejecting God will cost us nothing. 1 Samuel 8:10-18

"He will take..." - your sons, your daughters, fields, vineyards, olive groves, your seed, your male and female servants, your donkeys, your flocks..." 1 Samuel 8:10-17

- We foolishly replace God with things, not just kings. Romans 1:20-25

"For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." Romans 1:25

- Gadgets (entertainment, electronics)
- Status (job, promotion, success)
- Possessions (cars, houses, family, kids)
- Hobbies (sports, fitness, dancing, movies)
- Vanity (appearance, clothes, makeup, fashion)
- Food (could also include drinking, consumption of any kind)

The King the people NEEDED: We have a God Who gives all that we need

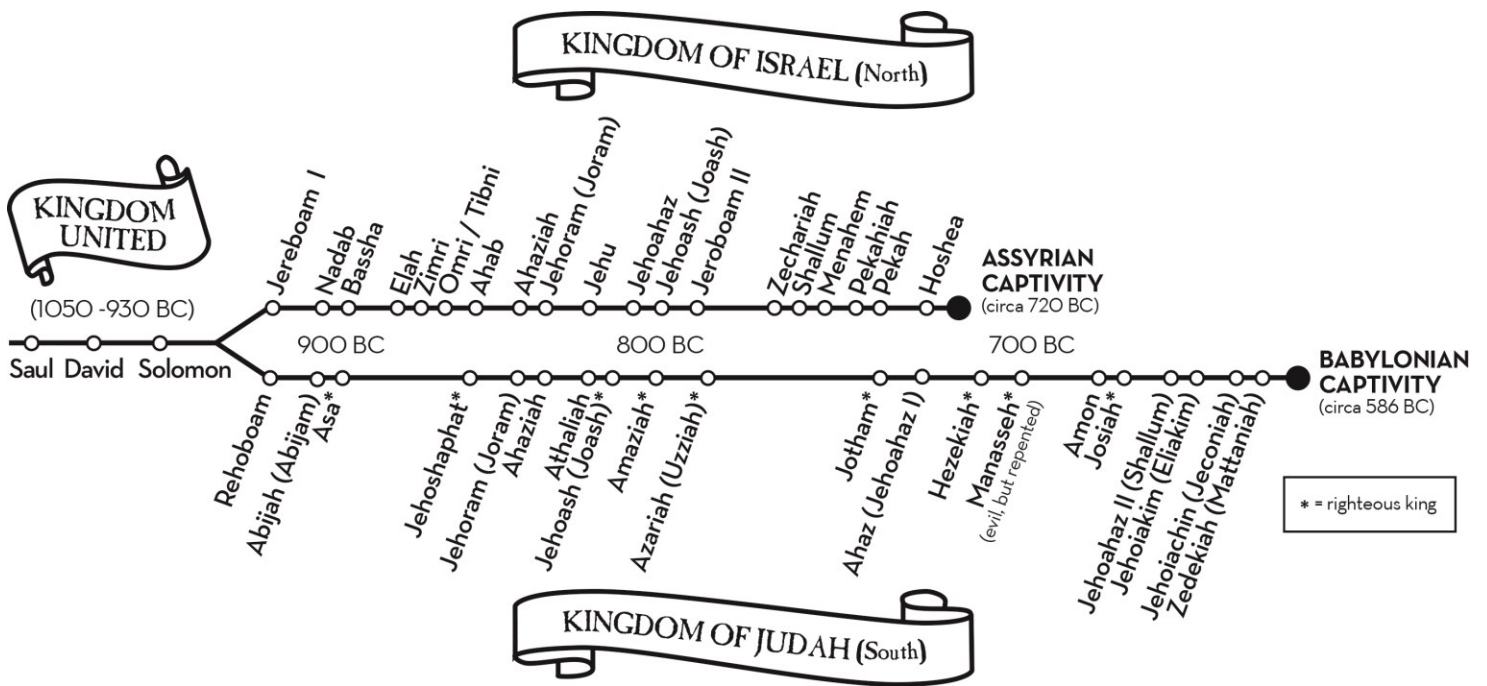
"Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also." 1 Samuel 8:8

- The Acquiescing King {ac·qui·esce : akwē'es : verb : accept something reluctantly but without protest}

"Now after Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the Lord's hearing. The Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to their voice and appoint them a king.'" 1 Samuel 8:19-22

- The Forgiving King | 1 Samuel 12:19-25

"For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself." 1 Samuel 12:22



Digging Deeper:

Quoted from "Vintage Jesus" by Mark Driscoll

Worship is living our life individually and corporately as continuous living sacrifices to the glory of a person or thing. This connection between glory and worship is clear in verses like Romans 11:36-12:1, which says, "To Him be the glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

First, we hold a person or thing in a place of glory. Second, we then worship that person or thing. Third, our worship of that person or thing we hold in glory is done by means of making sacrifices.

Glory means weightiness, importance, preeminence, priority, or that which is our greatest treasure, deepest longing, and fountain of hope. Functionally, what we hold in the place of glory is in effect our real god. Practically, worship is making sacrifices for what we are living to glorify.

The biblical word for worship is also sometimes translated "sacrifice." This insight is helpful because what we make the greatest sacrifices for reveals what we truly live to glorify and worship. For example, if we eat and drink in excess, we are worshipping our stomach and sacrificing our health. If we sacrifice relationships with God and people for a hobby (e.g., sport, music, craft), then we are worshipping that hobby. If we are giving our bodies to sexual sin, we are worshipping sex and/or another person whose glory is our highest aim, sacrificing holiness and intimacy with God in the process. In short, we give our time, energy, body, money, focus, devotion, and passion to that which we glorify most and make sacrifices to worship that person or thing. Because we were made for the express purpose of worshipping God, everyone is a worshipper. The only difference is who/what we worship."

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Is Jesus the King of your life? Have you kept Him on His throne?
2. Who or what are the idols that you have put on the throne in your life other than Jesus?
3. What are some of the idols in your life that are good things that you have let become "god" things?

Next Steps:

1. **Attend the 'Emotionally Healthy Spirituality' course on Wednesday nights in January and February at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.** This course offers pathways to transformation that will help you mature into a faith that is filled with authenticity and a profound love for God, the King. Learn more at calvarylife.org
2. **Attend the 'Alpha Course' on Wednesday nights in January and February at 6:30pm in the Worship Center Lobby.** Alpha is for anyone with questions about how, where, and if God fits into this life. Join honest conversations about the things you've wanted to ask but never thought you could and explore life's big questions over a relaxed dinner. calvarylife.org/alpha
3. **Join a LifeGroup in 2017.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups