

“So Solomon Was King”
By Trey Sullins

"Give us a king to judge us" (1 Samuel 8:6) was the cry of the people of God in days of Samuel. God had protected, cared for, and delivered them continually until this moment; yet they still demanded a king. In 1 Samuel 8:10-18 God gives a warning to the people that a king was going to do certain things to them which they would not like. A king would take their sons for war and work, their daughters for work, and their possessions for his own use. What happens when people choose to replace God as their king?

The warning to the people came true. When God speaks it is always truth and this warning is no exception. In 1 Kings 4:26 the Bible tells us that Solomon had 40,000 stalls for chariot horses and twelve thousand horsemen. This number is not counting footmen and auxiliary troops and yet this is still a lot of man. Next 1 Kings 4:22-23 we see the provisions for Solomon amounting to hundreds of animals and hundreds of pounds of food. This would require many people to prepare and cook all of this. Before anyone prepared and cooked this food, it was taken from the people. This is only one passage, but even only looking here we find that the king did all the things that were warned.

This was perhaps the height of Israel's history, but it was also the start of a great loss of trust in God. One piece of evidence is the material possessions at Solomon's command. Deuteronomy 17:16 shows God saying that when the people demand a king in the future, that king should not multiply horses for himself. Verse 17 says a king should not multiply wives or money for himself either. With 700 wives and 300 concubines Solomon certainly multiplied wives (1 Kings 11:3). In 1 Kings 10:27 the Bible says that silver was as common as stones in Jerusalem. Solomon was putting great effort into building his physical kingdom and wealth. With this great effort being put into gaining physically means that growing spiritually was not a priority. The results of this are seen in 1 Kings 11 whenever Solomon's trust turns from God to the false gods of his many wives.

When the people of God chose to replace their king, they chose for themselves a life leading to punishment. This mind set of looking to a man for authority rather than a king is one which led to God's people constantly placing their trust in other things than God. If only they would have kept God as king their prosper would have continued without end!

This account of Israel is one that we can learn much from. In our own lives we have a choice to make God our top priority in life or make physical things our focus. The former leads to blessings eternal and the latter leads to bad decisions and punishments. When we consider our lives today where is our focus? Have we replaced God or is He our number one? Who is your king?