

47

Israel Abandons God and Seeks a King

Chapter

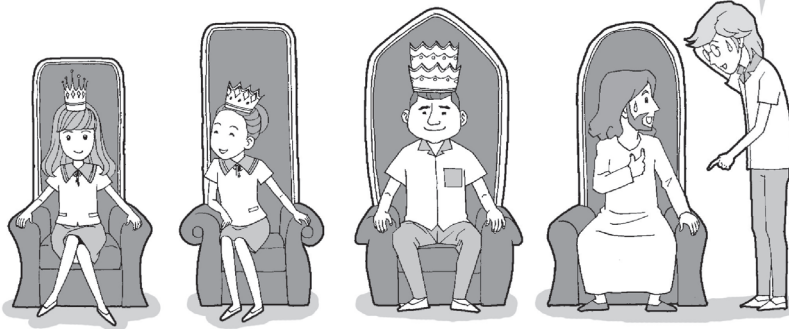
1 Samuel 8, Deuteronomy 17:14–20

Today's Lesson:



1. To understand the reason why the Israelites asked for a king and the problem behind that.
2. To understand that I must throw away all my thoughts and always obey Jesus my King.

Open Your Heart



Let's examine our hearts.

Who is sitting on the throne of my life and giving commands?



Understanding Today's Lesson

After Joshua passed away, the Israelites were ruled by the judges for around 350 years. On ordinary days, the judges worked to correct the social orders and ruled over the Israelites; during wars, they played the role of generals. The Israelites lived in a theocratic society, differing from their neighboring countries, which were monarchies. In other words, God was their invisible "king," and the God-chosen judges would play the role of ruler for the Israelite people.

However, the Israelites were displeased with this theocracy. They looked at their neighboring countries and, in the end, wanted to be like them. They wanted a powerful king that they could see, rule over them, and wanted that king to command their armies into war himself. This is why they used superficial reasons like the age of Samuel, the judge at that time, along with the fact that his sons were taking bribes to demand a king. They disliked that "God would rule as their king" and wanted to be like the other nations.

God warned the Israelites about the difficulties they would face if they chose to erect a king instead of God, but they did not back down on their request. In the end, the period of the judges ended with Samuel and the period of the kings began. Later on, the Israelites faced sufferings because of the king that they demanded.

Notes:



Memorizing Bible Verses

saying: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

(Luke 19:38)



Meditate

On These Verses

1. After you have meditated on the following verses, give a title of the verse or write a short summary of the verse. Also, write down things you have felt about the verse, or other verses that it has reminded you of.

(Jeremiah 2:17–19)

(Hosea 13:9–11)

(1 Samuel 12:20–22)



Changing

Directions

Read Deuteronomy 17:14–20, and answer the following questions:

1. God already told the Israelites about the principles of the king. Then, why was it wrong for the Israelites to demand a king?

2. What couldn't the king do?

3. What did the king have to do?

4. What was the ultimate difference between the king of the Israelites and king of the surrounding neighbors?

5. Even after receiving salvation, we have the tendencies of our flesh that do not want to obey the Word of God. However, the Bible tells us that this always results in failure and suffering. The only secret to victory is to make Jesus the king of my heart and the ruler of my life and to always obey Him. Find and record Proverbs 3:5–7.



Applying

The Word to My Life

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
(James 2:26)

1. Please write down how you will apply what you learned today throughout this week.

1.)

2.)

3.)

2. Look back and reflect on how successful you were at applying last week's lesson.



Praying

To Live According to the Word

Let's pray that I do not live according to my own thoughts and strength. Also, let's pray that Jesus becomes my master everyday and that I can give up my seat to Him. Let's say, "yes" to Jesus.



Our Story

The Bible and Philosophy

1. How can we make a beautiful world?

Hey there! Do you know how the world was made? By itself! This world that was made by chance is probably ruled by mother nature.

Mother nature probably made nature and has irresponsibly left it alone.

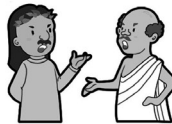


For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. (Hebrews 3:4)

2. What type of creature is the human?

Man is precious, of course! You don't need vain desires. You must live morally and uprightly.

Man is born once and must enjoy his life!



whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. (James 4:14)

3. Where does man go after death?

Then, do you know where we will go after death?

I don't know that either. Isn't death the end?



And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)

The Throne in My Heart

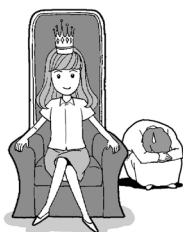
In my heart, there is one throne. And the Bible states that, depending on who sits on it, my spiritual condition will fall into one of these three categories.



First, the "natural man" (1 Cor 2:14) or the "sensual person" (Jude 1:19) is sitting on my throne, and he gives the commands. Because this person didn't invite Jesus, He is on the outside. However, because man was not made to live by his own strength and wisdom, this person is overwhelmed by the problems in his life that he cannot control. Therefore, this person falls into despair and emptiness regardless of how successful he is.



Second, the "Christian" is the complete opposite of the natural man. This person does not sit on his throne but has Jesus sit on the throne of his life. Even though he is not perfect, because God works within him and in the world, his life has clear priorities and every aspect of his life is well-organized. He is thankful for the great love God has given him and lives the way God wants him to live. Also, he experiences Romans 8:6: "to be spiritually minded is life and peace."



Third, the "carnal Christian" (1 Cor 3:1,3). The Bible warns that Christians are capable of following worldly people and living worldly lives. Christ is in this person's heart, but I am sitting on the throne. Controlling my life feels good. At times, I deceive myself, thinking that I can accomplish more when I am on the throne as opposed to Jesus being on the throne. However, that's definitely not the case. In the middle of this, your life and priorities are all mixed up, and are overwhelmed by confusion.



Wednesday

Sermon

Date.

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Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage:



Sunday

Sermon

Date.

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Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage: