IT CAME TO PASS WHEN SAMUEL WAS OLD

1. Samuel and his sons. 1 Sam. 8:1-3

- 1. Samuel made his sons, Joel and Abiah, judges in Beer-sheba which is located in the extreme south of Judah.
 - (1) Joel means: Jehovah is God. (2) Abiah means: Jah is Father.
- 2. The character of Samuel's sons, 1 Samuel 8:3

1. His sons walked not in his ways.

(1) They turned aside after lucre. Covetousness, or the undue love of earthly possessions.

A. Elders cannot be greedy of filthy lucre. 1 Tim. 3:3

B. Covetousness is idolatry. Col. 3:5; Luke 12:15

C. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. 1 Tim. 6:8-10 (2) They perverted judgment. This means:

A. They inflicted grievous injury on those with reference to whom they "took bribes and perverted judgment."

B. They set a bad example before all men. Psalms 12:8, "The wicked walk on every

side, when the vilest men are exalted."

- C. They brought their high office to contempt, and contributed directly to a national revolution.
- D. They brought the occasion for bitter sorrow to their aged father.
- 3. The charges and request of the elders. 1 Samuel 8:4, 5

Their charges:

(1) Samuel was old. "Behold thou art old."

(2) The corrupt sons of Samuel. "Thy sons walk not in thy ways." They were not qualified for the office for they were to be:

A. Able men: Ability, the engine of the soul.

B. Men such as fear God: Piety, Fear of God the helm of the soul.

C. Men of truth: Trustworthy; providing all things honest.

D. Men hating covetousness. Exodus 18:21. Disinterest, not perverting 2. Their request: judgment.

(1) Make us a king. 1 Samuel 8:5; "Make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

4. Reason versus Excuse

1. Their excuse for asking for a king. 1 Samuel 8:3;

(1) Samuel old; (2) His sons walked not in his ways; (3) His sons turned aside, took bribes, and perverted judgment.

- 2. Their Reason for asking for a king. 1 Samuel 8:5;
 (2) That we may be like all the nations about us. "To judge us like all the nations."
- 5. The alleged grounds of their request were insufficient. 1 Sam. 8:5 Their three charges:

1. The old age of Samuel.

- (1) No respect for Samuel or gratitude to him for his past service.
- (2) Man's inhumanity to man: casting off faithful servants in old age. (3) God's mercy heaps more honor upon his faithful, aged disciples as in Psalms 29:14; "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing."

2. The misgovernment of his sons.

(1) They could have been removed from their office without the office itself being abolished.

3. To be like other nations.

(1) Israel was designed to be not like them, but unlike them, and superior to them, Leviticus 20:26.

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(1) Israel was designed to be not like them, but unlike them, and superior to them, Levitions 20:20,

(PAGE TWO)

6. What they could expect under kings. 1 Samuel 8:10-18 Samuel told them: 1. Of the inconvenient burdens and real hardships that the monarchy would impose upon them.

2. It would rob them of the happiness they enjoyed under the form of

government already approved of God for them.

3. LESSONS TO LEARN:

- 1. People generally do not take readily to any warning, especially if that of which they are warned seems to conflict with that which they desire.
- 7. TWO things will happen. 1 Samuel 8:18.

the Christless.

HERE HATT WINDSON

1. Ye shall cry out in that day because of your king.

(1) Your helpless and hopeless misery you brought upon yourselves. A. You were warned about such conditions but you would not hear.

2. The Lord will not hear you in that day.

(1) The yoke once assumed you must bear. 1 Kings 12:14 the

8. They are set to have a king. 1 Samuel 8:19; "Nay; but we will have a king over us."

1. It was not whether God approved or not. Their passionate plea was:

(1) Without regard to personal loss to them, or their children. (2) Without regard to Samuel's warning and aversion to the change they proposed.

(3) They disregarded the declared disapproval of God. 1 Sam. 8:7: "For they had not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them."

2. They are now fully determined to "be like all the nations." 1 Sam. 8:20

9. Present day trouble in the Church. Lessons to learn:

1. The same passion that proved to be the down fall of Israel may lay hold of the church today.

(1) It is possible for individual Christians, or the whole church, to hanker after and actually follow the mode of life pursued by

A. The great desire to be like other men, or churches.

(2) History itself shows that the church has not always been free from that desire to impress the world.

A. The question, "How far can the church safely conform to the world," is a dangerous question. The question should be:

B. "How may the church best fashion the world to conform to its

own righteous, pure and lofty standard?"

(3) The wish to be like others was then, and is today a fruitful source of sin and woe.

A. Something to see and nothing to believe is the wish and propensity of human nature today as it was in Israel's day.

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