

1 Samuel 8:6-7

But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. 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."

God had brought the Children of Israel to the Promised Land and did everything He said He would do for them. In fact God told them if they would obey His laws they would flourish and their enemies would be scattered, and in a sense they would have it made.

† ***Leviticus 26:3-10 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. 'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you. You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new.***

This is only a part of God's blessing if they simply ***"walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them."*** Yet God also warned Israel of the consequences if they didn't, and here is just part of those consequences.

† ***Leviticus 26:14-20 'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.***

And there are more to both the blessings and the consequences, which you can read in Leviticus chapter 26. But just reading these things you would think it would be a no brainer to follow the Lord, simply because of the blessings and because He is an awesome good God to them (and us).

Then we read today's verse which says, "***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.***" So we read that and think, Really? Really, really??? How could they do such a thing?

But before we get to tough on Israel, how much more so has the USA done the same thing? The more this nation rejects God, the worse things get, and I am not talking politics (Since I hate politics) but the immorality by the people and disrespect of the children towards the parents and those in authority, and the use of God's name and His Son's name, Jesus, as words of common profanity. It has gotten so bad that people don't even know what sex they are, so they make multiple sexes that never existed, and we could go on and on with how bad this country has gotten.

So why would Israel and the USA reject God and want to be ruled by man instead of God ruling them? I'm not sure I can back up my answer biblically, but I think it's a simple matter of man wanting control. Think about it, you cannot control God, no matter how much people think that they can. God is 100% in control of everything. But Satan would have man think they have the upper hand with God by rejecting Him and wanting things their own way. And since man cannot control God, it knows it can control another man, including those running the country, and that's why I believe Israel rejected God, and why He is being rejected by the USA and other countries as well, because they want to be in control and not allow God to be.

Another reason is that they want the blessings of God, but not the God of the blessings. I believe one example is way back in the book of Genesis, with a story we are all familiar with, and that's about the Tower of Babel.

† **Genesis 11:4** *And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."* (underlined for emphasis)

"Us", "We", "Ourselves", not even asking God's direction but wanting control over God's creation and wanting to be like a god themselves. They wanted the earth and control over it and everything in it, but not the God who created the earth.

So the question for us as Christians is, are we rejecting God when we don't get our way and even try to force our way to get what we want? Or do we try to manipulate God, trying to control Him?

When we gave our life to Jesus, didn't we give Him our all and even sing to Him "*ALL to Jesus I surrender*" but there are still things that we hold onto saying to God, everything I have is yours except _____. And we all have something that we could fill in that blank with, be it a physical thing or pleasure, or a spiritual or emotional thing or even a person that we refuse to allow God to rule over, because we want control over it, even though it's destroying us. And if God had control over it (by removing it from us) we would be blessed. But instead compromise happens,

and once you start compromising with one little thing that you refuse to let go of, the list will start to grow, and eventually you will find yourself in a backslidden state and no longer experiencing the blessings of God.

So, let's ask God to show each of us, personally, what we have not allowed Him to be God over and to have 100% control over in our lives, and once He shows each of us, may we let go and truly give it to Him.

- † **Leviticus 26:3-4a** *If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you...*
- † **Leviticus 26:14-16a** *But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you...*
- † **Joshua 24:23** *"Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel."*