

## 1 Sam 8:6-9

*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. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods--so they are doing to you also. Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."*

I remember many years ago when I was a young Christian. I had a friend who also was a Christian also. He was a part of a bible study that we had at my sister's house and we all went to the same church. His family were also Christians and owned a Christian bookstore. He was a really nice guy. Then one day there was a Christian concert at our church and I found out that he wasn't going. So I went to his house and he was all dressed up to go out, but not to this concert, but rather to go party with the world. I spent about an hour with him trying to convince him that what he was starting to get into was bad and would only bring him pain, but he wouldn't listen. I finally prayed with him and left his house. I was miserable after that because I knew what he was headed for.

This was the same sort of thing that was going on with the children of Israel. They had God ruling over them, but they didn't want God to rule over them, they wanted to be like other nations and have a king instead of the King of kings rule over them. They wanted something they could see and touch and talk to and listen to.

Just like me, Samuel the prophet was very miserable because of this. I suppose we take these sorts of things personally. But God reassured Samuel that the people were not rejecting him as their prophet, but rather they were rejecting God as their true King. I know sometimes it's tough, but sometimes we have to let these people go and allow the Lord to deal with them, even if it means that God will deliver him or her over to satan.

† **1 Cor 5:5** *deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

I know when I was backslidden my own sister had to turn me away. I was very hard for her to do because I had no place to stay, yet she knew it was best for me and she could do nothing more.

But I was in the hands of the Lord and only after she let me go would He get my attention.

† **Ezekiel 16:59** *For thus says the Lord GOD: "I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant."*