## KINGDOM OF GOD SERIES

#56

## THE VOLUNTARY KING

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#### THE VOLUNTARY KING

TEXT:	1 Samuel 8
KEY VERSE:	1 Samuel 8: 7

"They have rejected me, that I should not reign over them."

1 Samuel 8: 7b [NKJV]

### They voted out the King of Kings!

Think of it! He spoke **everything** into existence! This is his planet! He destroyed all of it with a flood when men rejected his rule. He confused their language when they refused his order and scattered them across the globe. He plagued the pharaoh who defied him and buried him at the bottom of the sea.<sup>1</sup> He invented the breath these audacious people borrowed from his sky!

But today...

He quietly stepped down from his throne.

Can you imagine?! Like the incumbent, defeated in an election, he packed his office and moved out.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

1 Samuel 8:7 [NKJV]

What would cause God to respond this way?

In his book of wisdom, God explains his principles, how he thinks. Proverbs is the mind of God, written down.

<sup>32</sup> He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. Proverbs 16:32

Look at the last half of that verse; there is the answer.

#### RULING THE SPIRIT OF MAN IS MIGHTIER THAN CONQUERING A CITY!

God said, "When you have the ability to rule over your own spirit, you have a power far greater than a general, who can command an army and conquer a city." God's Kingdom is a Kingdom of the heart<sup>2</sup>. If all you do is conquer a city, you have only acquired property; but if you win the hearts of the people in the city, you **rule** that city! You

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Psalm 136:15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Luke 17: 20,21

do not rule unless you rule a man's spirit. If you take a city by force, you have slaves, not citizens. People will not long endure slavery. Citizens are made citizens by the Bill of Rights. A man who can **leave** a Kingdom but **chooses** to stay is its true citizen.

God chose the children of Israel to model his Kingdom. They were the planted seed that would grow into an eternal Kingdom of chosen people.

"Ye chosen seed of Israel's race:

Ye ransomed from the fall;

Hail him who saves you by his grace,

And crown him Lord of all!"

-All Hail the Power of Jesus Name; Oliver Holden (verse 2)

# The subjects of the Kingdom are Voluntary Subjects.

All the civilizations that saw God's wrath and judgment, were of the Kingdom of Satan **by choice**. God made his intentions known. After the flood, he reissued Order #1<sup>3</sup>.

#### Read: Psalm 2

<sup>1</sup> So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

Genesis 9:1

As men began to multiply (Genesis 10), look what they decided:

<sup>4</sup> 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**."

Genesis 11:4 [NKJV emphasis added]

This was direct defiance of what God had told them to do!

God said, "Scatter and fill up my world."

They said, "Nope! We are staying right here!"

These were the citizens of the Kingdom of darkness<sup>4</sup>, not those who had "found grace in the eyes of the Lord."<sup>5</sup>

Every generation, every person, chooses to walk in God's grace or not. It does not matter if your grandpa is NOAH!

WHAT WAS IT THAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

<sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. Genesis 6:8

The rest of the world saw God as a tyrant who kept them from doing as they pleased. Noah saw his grace.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Genesis one: 28

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> John 8: 44

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ephesians 2: 8, 9

<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. Hebrews 11:7

By faith, Noah moved in his worship of God, and built an ark to save his family. You see, God ruled the heart of this one man. Think about that! At this point in history, God's Kingdom ruled over **just one man** and his family. So God destroyed the kingdoms of man and saved his Kingdom and its eight citizens. That Kingdom is received by faith. Hebrews 11: 6 says that God cannot be pleased without faith.

That ark was only built big enough to save the eight citizens of the Kingdom of God-the Kingdom of faith,

... THE KINGDOM OF WILLING, VOLUNTARY CITIZENS.

If you choose, you may remain in the Kingdom of darkness.

If you choose, by faith you may leave it for the Kingdom of God's dear son.<sup>7</sup>

There are no forced citizens. There is also no ark for the Kingdom of darkness. An ark is provided for those who

There are no forced citizens in the Kingdom of heaven.

accept the grace that is found in the eyes of God. Only God's family will be saved from the ultimate judgment. Only those who willingly choose him are citizens of his Kingdom and know it's safety.

# God Does Not Remove the Consequences of Rejecting His Kingdom

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:16-17

Sin when it is finished brings forth death.

\* Notice: God did not say, "In the day that you eat of it, I WILL KILL YOU!!" The law of sin and death is universal. God established his laws, and the consequences are written in. He does not have to make it happen.

"Be sure your sin we'll find you out."8

"The soul that sinneth it shall die."9

"The wages of sin is death." 10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Exodus 20: 6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Colossians 1: 13, 14

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> numbers 32: 23

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ezekiel 18: 20

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Romans 6:23

It is the sin that brings forth death. The fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not poisonous. The act of disobeying was poisonous! That was what brought us the knowledge of evil and death.

In fact, God's response to man's sin was to provide atonement, a covering, and promised redemption.<sup>11</sup> The choice to reject God's rule carries its own penalty. Look at God's warning to Israel.

#### **Read:1 Samuel** 8: 9-18

"THESE WILL BE THE WAYS OF THE KING WHO WILL RULE OVER YOU..." [IN GOD'S PLACE]:

# He will take your sons to fight his battles and make his weapons.

V. 11, 12

When God rules, he fights **for** you. God told Israel to prepare for battle, then he said, "Now stand there and watch me fight for you."<sup>12</sup> The Lord fights for you and you hold your peace.

#### He will take your daughters to work for him.

V. 13

Bottom line: If you have any other king but God, you will sacrifice your children!

But if God is king:

<sup>25</sup> For thus says the LORD:

"Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken,
and the prey of the tyrant be rescued,
for I will contend with those who contend with you,
and I will save your children. Isaiah 49:25

<sup>13</sup> All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. Isaiah 54:13

# He will take the best of the prosperity that God has poured out on you.

V. 14, 17

Sea!15

When God is your king, he says, "Bring me what belongs to me, and I will give you back more than you can even hold!" No king but God can make such a promise! Earthly kings **take** more than they **give**.

Earthly kings take more than they give.	<b>You will be his slaves.</b> V. 17	
	Sin is a hard taskmaster! The king of darkness	
does not quickly lose his subjects. He has no citizens, only slaves. 4 God had to plague pharaoh into ruin to get him		
to turn loose his people. Even then, he changed his mind and came	after them! God had to drown him in the Red	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Genesis 3: 15, 21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> exodus 14: 13, 14

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Deuteronomy 15: 6, 26: 1-15, Malachi 3: 10- 12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Romans 6: 16- 18

<sup>15</sup> Salm 136: 15

#### The king of darkness is buried under the red sea of Jesus blood. Leave him there!

Do not return to slavery in the land of God's promises. In his Kingdom, we are kings and priests.<sup>16</sup> We are not servants, but friends.<sup>17</sup> We are begotten sons, and heirs of the king's wealth.<sup>18</sup> We are free indeed, because his son has made it so.<sup>19</sup> The king has given us his Kingdom.<sup>20</sup>

... But he does not force it on us.

#### God will sit on the throne when we allow it.

-1 Peter 5: 6, 7

Every day we choose to let God be king or to follow the king that rules the world around us. Every day we choose to give God his throne, or not. If we choose God, we choose his blessing and protection. We choose His Spirit to guide us, teach us, and cause us to please the king.

WE CHOOSE HIM BY CHOOSING HIS SON, JESUS.

God's Kingdom is populated by people who want to be there. It is populated by people who choose to ignore the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, allowing God to choose what is good and evil for them and taking from the tree of life instead.

God's Kingdom is populated by people who want to be there.

YOUR KING IS CHOSEN FROM YOUR HEART BY FAITH.

Whether you let God rule your life or Satan, it will be because of your belief. If you reject God's rule over your life, it is because you do

not believe your life will be better for it. Israel said, "we were better off in slavery in Egypt."<sup>21</sup> then they said, "we would be better off with a human king, than with God as our king."<sup>22</sup>

#### Knowledge of good and evil

"We know what is better for us."

... But we do not!

God knows all. He knows what is good for us. He can bring to pass what is best for us. He alone has the right to rule. How foolish we are not to allow him free reign of our lives!

No wonder Paul said:

<sup>1</sup> I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to \*make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Romans 12:1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Revelation 1: 6, 5: 10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> John 15: 15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Romans 8: 29,1 John 3: one, 2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> John 8: 36

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Luke 12: 32

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> exodus 14: 11, 12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> 1 Samuel 8: 4, 5

#### \*Let God be king!

2 \*\*Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. Romans 12:2

#### \*\* Do not let Satan be king!

Like Saul, I stubbornly went my own way.

Like Paul, I beg you to let him sit on the throne of your life.

Like both of us, you will be glad you did! 91