

THERE WAS NO KING IN ISRAEL

Introduction:

1. Four times in the book of Judges, it is stated that there was no king in Israel.
2. This statement gives important insight into the setting of this book.
3. From Genesis to Deuteronomy, all things are leading toward Canaan.
4. The book of Joshua is the transition into Canaan.
5. The mission of Joshua was two-fold...
 - a. First, he was to lead the nation of Israel into the land of Canaan.
 - b. Second, he was to guide them in “breaking the back” of enemy forces in the land of Canaan.
 - c. The work of settling the land and completely driving out the enemy was left to the individual tribes.
6. The book of Judges records the history of the tribes and their failure to do their duty, and – therefore – their desire for a king.

I. The Forgotten King

- A. God was the King of Israel!
 1. Even though there was no earthly king of Israel during the time of the judges, they still had a King.
 2. God was to rule over them, lead them and protect them.
 3. When the people claimed they had no king, they were forgetting the rule of God.
 4. When they desired a king “like all the nations,” they were rejecting the reign of God (cf. Deut. 17:14; 1 Sam. 8:5, 7, 20; 10:19).
- B. However, He was forgotten by His own people.
 1. They rejected His authority.
 2. They resisted His instructions.
 3. They rebelled against His plan for the nation.
- C. Yet, in spite of this, God was a faithful King to His people.

II. The Faithful King

- A. God had chosen them as a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:1-8).
- B. God had given them the laws of His kingdom (Exodus 20:1-17; etc.).
- C. As a King, God had led them safely through the wilderness.
- D. As a King, God had guided them to victory in Canaan (Joshua 8:30-35).
- E. God had clearly defined their responsibilities as citizens of His kingdom.
 1. Deuteronomy 6:1-5 – **Love, fear and obey God alone**
 2. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 – **Teach the Law of God**
 3. Deuteronomy 6:10-13 – **Remember and serve God alone**
 4. Deuteronomy 6:14-25 – **Remain separate from the world**
- F. God had given them a plan for the organization of His kingdom.
 1. Each tribe was given an area of land to settle.
 2. Each tribe was given the job of removing all idolatrous enemies.
 3. Each tribe was allowed to help their neighboring tribes.
 4. All tribes were to be submissive to the Law of God.
- G. God never abandoned His kingdom, even when they rejected Him.

Conclusion: *Compare God’s relationship to His physical kingdom (Israel) with His relationship to His spiritual kingdom, the church.*