

Covenant & Kingdom
Week 11 - Who is the King?
Deuteronomy 17:14-20, Judges 2:10-18

- The Mosaic Law included requirements on kings - national covenant head was expected
 - Ruler who would know the law, rule justly, and demonstrate obedience as an example
 - Would be a man whom God chose, who would represent Him, rule on His behalf
- Moses was succeeded as chief “judge” by Joshua, but no succession principle was established
 - Government as the land was being settled was largely familial and tribal - localized covenant heads
 - Most households of Israel failed to lead faithfully, leading to apostasy and judgment
 - Israel was living as a people, not a nation - no national covenant head to lead
 - Temporary solution to this was the appointment of Judges in the spirit of Moses and Joshua
 - Insufficiency of the Judges illustrated the necessity of a righteous, national king to bring the covenant promises to a consummation
- From Joshua’s death until David’s ascent is a search for national, kingly leadership
 - King was to come from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10) - yet none of Israel’s prominent leaders had come from Judah
 - Judges 19:22-30 - Horrible crime committed by Benjamin should have led to disinheritance
 - Lack of ultimate accountability for Benjamin underscores the lawlessness of the period of the Judges and emphasizes the need for a righteous, national king
- In spite of the proclamation that the king would be from Judah and the illegitimacy of Benjamin, Israel’s first king is a Benjaminite
 - Israel desired a king who would judge and fight according to his own law, not God’s - wanted a king *like* the nations
 - Would not humbly rule on God’s behalf but would seek to replace God
 - Saul is judgment against Israel - does not lead the people into rest
- 1 Samuel 16:10-13 - God finally answers the question of who is the king
 - God’s Spirit fills and remains on David, and even Saul’s own family acknowledges this
 - Saul’s disregard for the law is contrasted with David’s reverence for it
 - David demonstrates every indication of kingship, and is God’s man to lead Israel to its consummate rest and to foreshadow the greater king to come