

# Believers & Civil Responsibility

## A Practical Application Of History

These lessons are review of the transition from a Theocracy to a Monarchy for Israel and the impact on the nation. This will also be a discussion of the involvement of current day believers in the civil process and the corresponding responsibilities based on the examples we find during this transition. These lessons cover a period of about 465 years and the books of I & II Samuel, I & II Kings and I & II Chronicles.

- I. I Samuel 8-12 The Establishment of a Monarchy
  - a. God must be involved in the process.
  - b. What traits do you want in a leader?
  - c. Pray about it.
- II. I Samuel 13-15 I Chronicles 5 & 9 Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely - AND - Quickly
  - a. Barely a King and picking a fit with long term consequences.
  - b. Lacking knowledge and control of the things and actions of people occurring on your watch.
  - c. Successful? In whose eyes?
- III. I Samuel 16-31 I Chronicles 10, 12 Psalms 59, 56, 34, 142, 52, 63, 54 Change Is Good - Right?
  - a. The political response/norm
    - i. Get some to bail you out
    - ii. Then make them out to be the bad guy.
  - b. Maintaining a God perspective in a bad environment.
  - c. Choose the right allies.
- IV. 2 Samuel 2-5 I Chronicles 3, 4, 11, 12 Civil Unrest And Making Allies
  - a. Choosing the right allies.
  - b. Civil war - causes and solutions.
  - c. Looking to God.
- V. 2 Samuel 6, 9, 22 Psalms 18, 96, 105 I Chronicles 15-18 Stand For God
  - a. Acknowledge God's blessings.
  - b. Place God's work first
  - c. Criticism will come - even from family and friends
- VI. 2 Samuel 8, 10-12, 22-23 I Chronicles 11, 18 Psalms 51 What Is A Leader And Leadership?
  - a. A true leader - leads
  - b. When a leader quits leading and has time on their hands trouble happens.

- c. A true leader can admit fault & failure.
- VII. 2 Samuel 5, 12-20 I Chronicles 3, 14 Psalms 3 Leading Is Hard On The Family.
  - a. A. Time away can lead to spiteful or sinful children - guilt can lead to lack of discipline.
  - b. Handling of family can cause division and disloyalty in followers.
  - c. Sometimes things are good with family, and sometimes they are good with followers - and sometimes you just can't win.
- VIII. II Samuel 21-24 I Chronicles 21 You Can't Sweep It Under The Rug
  - a. When you lead you will inherit past problems.
  - b. When you lead ambition can override common sense.
  - c. Wrongs must be corrected.
- IX. I Kings 3-10 II Chronicles 1-9 Wisdom And Direction Verses Wealth And Power
  - a. Direction gives focus.
  - b. Wisdom provides a good leader
  - c. Wealth & Power distract purpose (Ecclesiastes)
- X. I Kings 12-15 II Chronicles 10-13 Politics Creates Division
  - a. The constant political question is "Do you do what the people want or do you do what is right?". Which maintains power?
  - b. In choosing advisors the question becomes "Do you choose those who tell you what you want to hear or those that tell you what is right?".
  - c. Religion plays a part in politics and will often be in conflict because of A & B.
- XI. I Kings 15-22 II Chronicles 14-18 Good Leaders
  - a. Peace & Longevity comes with good leaders - Asa & Jehosaphat - who rule during the same timeframe as 7 Israelite kings who endure constant struggles.
  - b. Leaders are not perfect but good ones will admit their mistakes and correct them when possible.
  - c. Power and wealth corrupt again....and again....and again...
- XII. I Kings 16 - II Kings 12 II Chronicles 18-24 Bad Leaders - The Contrast
  - a. Bad leadership decisions make life miserable for followers.
  - b. Bad leadership won't listen even when given solid proof they are wrong.
  - c. Bad leaders create an environment of "Whatever is best for me is best regardless of what happens to anyone else."
- XIII. Summary And Overview - will be developed as the series moves forward based on the topics that receive the most discussion. Also, there are many areas that are repeated over and over again in these lessons and examples so we will review the importance of those repetitive items.

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