

Have It Your Way

1Sa 8:19 The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We must have a king over us.

It is possible for the Lord to let you have thing your way and it not be His perfect will. It was not God's perfect will that Israel have a king. He knew what a king would do the people. He would tax them heavily and take their best lands and children into his service. Up until this time God had ruled over his people. He had sent Judges and Prophets to give His word to the people but God was their King. Israel was like no other nation upon the face of the Earth. God sent Samuel to be a Judge over Israel. He spoke God's Word to them and God fought all of Israel's battles.

1Sa 7:9 Then Samuel took a young lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on behalf of Israel, and the LORD answered him.

1Sa 7:10 Samuel was offering the burnt offering as the Philistines drew near to fight against Israel. The LORD thundered loudly against the Philistines that day and threw them into such confusion that they fled before Israel.

1Sa 7:11 Then the men of Israel charged out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines striking them down all the way to a place below Beth-car.

1Sa 7:12 Afterwards, Samuel took a stone and set it upright between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, explaining, **"The LORD has helped us to this point."**

When Samuel got old he appointed his sons as Judges over the people. Samuel did this and not God. These men were not as their father was but they were wicked. The people rejected Samuel's sons and they came to Samuel and asked for a King. This is what they said:

1Sa 8:19 The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We must have a king over us.

1Sa 8:20 **Then we'll be like all the other nations: our king will judge us, go out before us, and fight our battles.**"

1Sa 8:21 Samuel listened to all the people's words and then repeated them to the LORD.

1Sa 8:22 "Listen to them," the LORD told Samuel. "Appoint a king for them." Then Samuel told the men of Israel, "Each of you, go back to your city."

Notice why the Israelites wanted a king. They wanted a king so they could be like other nations they saw around them. They wanted their king to fight their battles. Instead of looking to God directly to meet their needs they got their eyes on man. Up to that point God had been their warrior and defense. Samuel even set up a stone and called it, "The Lord has helped us up to this point!" Now they wanted a king to fight their battles instead of God!

When Israel first asked for a King, God told Samuel to tell the people what a king would do to them and that it was not good. However, the people insisted on having a king and God said all right, have it your way. They got out of God's perfect will and got into his permissive will. From that point the nation never got back in His perfect will again. They will one day when Jesus, the King of Kings will rule over Israel. The nation of Israel rose and fell based upon the king that was ruling.

It is possible in our own lives that we can keep praying about something that God is telling us no about and He finally say, "Go ahead and have it your way". When we do this we trade his perfect will for his permissive will. I have heard of people begging God to let them marry someone they know God is saying no about, but they would not take no for an answer and God said ok have it your way. They got off track and were miserable. We must trust when God says no that it is for our best interest.

Notice also that the people wanted their king to fight their battles. So often we are that way! We turn to counselors or friends for advice or help when things get tough instead of going to God for ourselves. I truly believe that Christians need a lot less counseling than they do. They would be better served getting on their knees and praying through with God. There is a time and place to seek out counseling and prayer from others but it should be after we have gone to God for ourselves. We often want others to fight our battles for us. We need to get on our knees and seek God for ourselves. This is where maturity arises. We need to open the Word of God and dig for ourselves. This is where maturity arises. This is where the perfect will of God is found. We can have it our way or God's way. God's way is always much better!