

What a Mess and How We Got Here **1 Samuel 8:4-9**

***Eastway Baptist Church needs my leadership as never before.**
Politics divides; the Spirit of Christ unites.

Can you believe what happened in our nation's capital this past week? That wasn't chaos, it was hyper chaos, it was chaos to the extreme. It was madness. It made South American uprisings look tame. It was man being man, out of control, without understanding.

It was the most disturbing event I have ever witnessed in our nation perpetrated by my fellow Americans. I remember the protests during the Democratic Convention of 1968 in Chicago and how disturbing they were. They were protesting our being in Vietnam. But I have never witnessed what we saw this past week.

I felt personally violated. It was like that feeling the victim of a break-in experiences when he realizes that a stranger has been inside his home and went through his possessions and took some of them. I felt like these people were on my property and were in my capital building and were insulting me personally.

I know that this melee was politically motivated. Politicians were doing what they thought was the right and Constitutional thing to do but supporters of President Trump by the thousands descended on Washington to stop it. And five people lost their lives. And I know why they did it, and I know why the thousands of others rioted and looted and destroyed last year. I know why Twitter and Facebook are robbing their users of their First Amendment rights.

This is what happens when a nation forgets God.

This is what happens when a nation forgets God and chooses to be ruled by man. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." But woe unto the nation that has forsaken its God and Lord. This is what happens when politics rules a land rather than God.

Our text:

1 Samuel 8:4-9,

⁴ *Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah;*

⁵ *and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations."* Before the election this past November, people were concerned about Joe Biden's age and mental state. They were saying that Biden might die soon after the election and if he became President, Kamala Harris would be our President. We will just have to wait and see if that comes to pass. In the meantime we are to pray for him and his new administration.

I understand the concerns of the elders of Israel. But what they decided needed to be done reminds me of what our nation just went through. They wanted to take matters into their own hands rather than trusting themselves and the entire nation of Israel to the God of Israel.

America was founded on the faith of a handful of Pilgrims who came here for the express purpose of creating a new life for themselves in which they could be free to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. They wanted to be free of the tyrannical hand of the King James who ruled the United Kingdom. I have just reread The Mayflower Compact and this is a snippet of the first line in that compact. *Read it.

Now notice this, *"Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways.* Sound familiar? It should. For four years now, we have been inundated with news about Trump's children and Biden's son, Hunter. Every time we have had a President who has adult children, opposing politicians have raised questions about their character and the influence these children had on the President. The elders of Israel knew that after Samuel died, these wicked and immoral and greedy sons would inherit his office. Our Presidents children cannot inherit that office, but they can be a problem. And are they.

Our nation has become a hotbed for crime and sexual immorality and greed, which is idolatry. Our children's heroes are fictional characters on video games and in the movies. God has been forgotten. The number of parents who are bringing up their children in the nurture

and admonish of the Lord according to Barna and Pew surveys is the lowest it has been in the history of our nation. Social media has become the source for our education about everything, including theology. And now tools like Facebook and Twitter are defying the First Amendment by denying us of our right of free expression. *"Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways."*

Israel knew that Samuel was a man of God, a prophet of God. They said it plainly, *and your sons do not walk in your ways*. But they missed the point of Samuel's life and his trust in Yahweh. They focused on the vessel and not who filled that vessel. And that is one of the things about these elders that so deeply disturbed Samuel. He knew that they had forgotten God.

Beloved, when the church insists on putting their man in the White House, and gets upset if he doesn't win that office, that thing is displeasing in the sight of God.

Jesus Christ is the head of the church and He and He alone is to be trusted by those in His church.

What America needs is pastors and evangelists who are displeased with our trusting in man rather than in the Lord Jesus.

What America needs is God-called men and women who will stand on the word of God preach the truth to a nation that has forgotten its God.

We need a Samuel...and an Isaiah and a Jeremiah and a John and a Paul and a Peter and a Jude. We need disciples of Christ who are displeased with the direction our nation has chosen to take. We need men and women who will give a wake up call to America and warn her that is she continues to reject the God of our founders, the God of Israel, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, she is doomed.

America needs a Samuel.

⁶ *But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD.*

⁷ *The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.*

⁸ *"Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day-- in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods-- so they are doing to you also.*

⁹ *"Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them."* And after that Samuel told them exactly what was going to happen to them since they rejected God. But that was ancient Israel.

America has forsaken its God in favor of the rule of man. God gave government but not that we would worship government. He gave government to help keep us in check. That's the lesson of Romans 13.

The Pilgrims came to this new world to escape religious persecution but above that, to spread the gospel. In The Mayflower Compact they plainly declared their heart's desire to serve the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. What happened?

The prophet Samuel was addressing the kingdom of Israel when they insisted on being ruled by a king like all the other nations they knew of. I am referring to America, a nation that long ago forgot and forsook the very God who established it, choosing rather to be ruled by man, like all the other nations. And our nation must have men and women to rule over it. But the church of Christ must not turn to politicians as the source of her blessings.

By the way, did you receive your check from Uncle Sam? It was nice getting it, wasn't it? Are you hoping like I am that we will get a check for \$2,000.00? If we do get that big check, I'll certainly be thankful for it, but I'll also remember to return a portion of it to this body of Christ.

I will close with this.

Quite frankly, beloved, Americans couldn't care less what God wants for our nation. And our politicians for the most part are the same. They suddenly become religious when it comes time for them to be

reelected. You would think they're vying for sainthood. No one has heard a peep out of them about their faith when suddenly our television screens are filled with pictures of them posing in front of beautiful churches somewhere with their spouses and children in tow.

Why has our nation gone absolutely insane? Because America has forgotten God. America has rejected Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Lord. America has rejected Jesus Christ as the only way to the Father.

I love our nation, but it is not my God. America is not God and the Constitution is not the word of God.

Our government like all government was established by God Himself. And we are to submit to it, as far as it doesn't violate our faith.

We are a nation of laws which means absolutely nothing if those laws aren't obeyed and enforced. Laws are enforced by officers of the law and our justice system. But the nation that forgets God should expect nothing less and nothing more than what we witnessed this past week. If there is no God to answer to, why should we obey the laws of the land? In a godless government, anything goes.

But we are the body of Christ.

We are the righteous children of God who have not forgotten our God and Savior.

We are the righteous, raised up children of God who stand on the word of God and we will prevail!

We are the light of the world, the salt of the earth, the born of the Spirit children of God. And we are more than overcomers through Him who loves us.

Here's the good news, beloved of God, the godless do not have the final say. *"Greater is He who is in us, than he who is in the world."*

Lord Jesus, our God and Savior, all authority in heaven and on earth has been granted to You, and it is to You we turn in this moment. We cry out on behalf of this nation that has forgotten You, asking You to have mercy upon us and grant us an awakening that You might revive a sleeping church that claims faith in You but one that has become

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lukewarm. If Your body has ever needed Your grace, it is now. If Your church, Your body, has ever needed the gospel, it is now. If Your body has ever needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit, it is now. If Your body has ever needed to be enthralled by your written word, it is now.

God, help us.