

### Theocracy

In the giving of the Mosaic Law to Israel God knew what His people would do when they entered Canaan – the land that He had promised them in Abraham. Therefore, He made provisions in the Law for leaders; and one of those provisions was for kings (Deuteronomy 17:14-20).

God knew that His people Israel would grow weary of the judges and request a king to rule them – He knew that they would want to be like all other nations. Now God had intended for Israel to have a king, but a king of His choosing and in His time. And if you read carefully Deuteronomy 17:18, you will note that the Lord's plan for Israel was that the king would be a vassal king under His higher rule. By the Lord's design, the king was to be no greater than his subjects; he was not above the law. God wanted a king that would copy the law and keep it near the throne at all times.

The Lord intended for Israel to function as a theocracy. Now the word “theocracy” is a theological word; and it means “God-ruled.” God desired to exercise His rule directly at first and then indirectly through a king.

God gave the people a king in response to their request to be like the other nations. God gave Saul to Israel as her first king. Saul however, failed. He failed because he chose to rebel against the Lord's theocratic rule (I Samuel 15:22-23).

One writer said it like this, “God wished to reveal Himself to His people through the rulers, but when the rulers failed to obey God, God's revelation was diminished. Therefore, God sent His prophets to warn the kings and the people. God also wished to rescue His people through the rulers, but when they disobeyed Him, He could not bless their military.”

Sin can and will hold back the tide of God's blessing. Solomon was correct when he said, “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25).

### **BIBLE READING**

Psalm 89:34-37

### **VERSE OF THE WEEK**

I Samuel 8:7

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