

# **The Duties of a Donkey/Elephant**

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1Sam 10:17-27

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## Synopsis:

In this third sermon on the election we learn that it is the LORD who rules, saves, and is involved in our choices whether we accept or reject him. And we learn that all rule is either in line or out of line with God's priorities.

## I.

### **Fear**

1Sam 10:27 Some worthless fellows said "How can this man save us?"

### Only two motivations for action: FEAR or LOVE

- with fear nothing goes right
- with love everything goes right
- \*Perfect love casts out fear (1John)

### We live in FEAR:

- Terrorism: 9/11 remembrance
- Economic downturn:
  - Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac
  - Lehman Bros, AIG
  - housing crisis
  - oil crisis
- Social Security and our pensions
  
- \*I am fearful of stewardship this fall!
- Election season incites fears

"Lions and tigers and bears, Oh my!"

### Samuel, Israel, Saul: Living in Fear (Philistines)

Who will save us?

What are our options? 2 options and a course of action

## II.

## **The State Will Save Us**

1Sam 10:19 You have said, "Set a king over us."

### Default drive is King/State as God

- monarchy versus covenant in Samuel's time
- King was divine = Pharaoh, Canaanite kings
- temptation to worship the king/state

E.g. Question to German friend in DC

Q: Why do Europeans not believe in God?

A: The state does everything (France 1789)

### READ 1Sam 10:17-19

- Issue is trust for salvation: God or king?
- We trust in something/someone
- Where does our trust lie?

### In election season, do you think the state/politicians will save you?

- Social Security?
- Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac?
- Chris Cox (SEC)?
- Ben Bernanke/Henry Paulson?
- Congress?

### Two Examples: Old and New Testament

Old: 1 and 2 Kings: all kings bad except David, Hezekiah, Josiah

New: Revelation

- picture of state control (Rome/Babylon)
- Dragon and Whore, ch 17
- 2 Beasts (land and sea), chs 12-13

\*The state will not save you! This is good news!

## III.

### **The LORD Will Save Us**

1Sam 10:19 But today you have rejected your God who saves you

### Notice how involved Yahweh is with people (READ)

- recites history of relationship 10:17-18
- calls together even though disapproving 10:19

- answers questions 10:21b-22
- chooses despite our bad choices 10:24
- authority for rule lodges with God 10:25
- inspires others to help 10:26

God rules, saves, and is involved in our lives

OT: Psalms 95-99 (LORD Reigns Psalms)

READ Psalm 97:1-5

READ Psalm 99:1-5

\*Lord rules

Ezek 34:11-16

\*Lord (Good Shepherd) saves

NT: Rev 5 Slain lamb rules on the throne

\*The state will not save you; the Lord will! This is good news

IV.

**Make a Compromised Choice**

1Sam 10:25 Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship

DILEMMA:

FEAR:	they lived in it/we live in it
STATE:	didn't save them/won't save us
LORD:	saved them/will save us
US:	we want a king!

How do we make a compromised choice?

God works with us:

Rule, Back then and now:

THEN: Before the monarchy:

Tribal assemblies around the LORD = covenantal

Shift to monarchy = nation state

NOW: United States

Covenantal tradition = presence of God

Republican tradition = nation state

\*no separation of church and state,  
only non-establishment of religion

All rule then and now goes back to God

What's the alternative?

- Deut 17 rules of the king
- Isa 9:1-7
- Isa 11:1-5
- Jesus Kingdom: Gentiles lord it, you serve
- Rom 13:1-7

Here's the take home:

- FEAR      give it to Jesus who loves you
- STATE     won't save you
- LORD      will save you
- Make a compromised choice