

Moses was never given the title of "King." He was Israel's deliverer from bondage. Joshua was never called "King." He trusted God, conquered many nations and led the people into the Promised Land. Gideon was raised up by God to defeat the Midianites, and the men of Israel wanted him to rule over them. Gideon refused to do this, saying instead, "The LORD shall rule over you" (*Judges 8:23*). In the days of Samuel, all the elders of Israel gathered together saying, "Make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (*1 Sam. 8:5*). The LORD answered, "Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them." (*1 Sam. 8:7*). Both Moses and Samuel warned the people of the potential problems kings would bring (*Deut. 17:14-20; 1 Sam. 8:10-22*). Israel's first king, Saul, was a national disaster and total failure.

When Jesus came, the Jewish people rejected their true King, hated Him, and said, "We will not have this man to reign over us" (*Luke 19:14*). When Pilate asked, "Shall I crucify your King?" they answered, "Away with Him...we have no king but Caesar" (*John 19:15*).

It is part and parcel of man's sinful nature to be the ruler of his own life and the captain of his own soul, even though headed for destruction. At the end of the tribulation, nations and earthly kings will gather together at Armageddon to wage war against God and against His anointed King, the Messiah. In their declaration of independence from God they will express their desire to free themselves from God's constraints and to cut all ties with God (*Psalm 2:1-4*). Yet, God will set His King in Zion (*Psalm 2:6*)!

> May He rule my heart today! ~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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