



THE RISE AND FALL OF KINGS: When God Isn't King

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In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Judges 21:25 NLT

¹ ... At that time Israel was at war with the Philistines. The Israelite army was camped near Ebenezer, and the Philistines were at Aphek. ² The Philistines attacked and defeated the army of Israel, killing 4,000 men. ³ After the battle was over, the troops retreated to their camp, and the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the Lord allow us to be defeated by the Philistines?" Then they said, "Let's bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord from Shiloh. If we carry it into battle with us, it will save us from our enemies."

1 Samuel 4:1b-3 NLT

1. God Isn't King When You Treat Him Like a Servant

³ After the battle was over, the troops retreated to their camp, and the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the Lord allow us to be defeated by the Philistines?" Then they said, "**Let's bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord from Shiloh. If we carry it into battle with us, it will save us from our enemies.**" ¹⁰ So the Philistines fought desperately, and Israel was defeated again. The slaughter was great; 30,000 Israelite soldiers died that day. The survivors turned and fled to their tents.

1 Samuel 4:3, 10 NLT

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding;**

⁶ **in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

"You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes."

Deuteronomy 12:8 ESV

"If you love me, obey my commandments."

John 14:15 NLT

2. When God Isn't King You Worship All the Wrong Things

²The Ark remained in Kiriath-jearim for a long time—twenty years in all. During that time all Israel mourned because it seemed the Lord had abandoned them.

³Then Samuel said to all the people of Israel, "If you want to return to the Lord with all your hearts, get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth. Turn your hearts to the Lord and obey him alone; then he will rescue you from the Philistines."

1 Samuel 7:2-3 NLT

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 NIV

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

Colossians 3:5 NLT