A Blueprint for Changing God’s Order
1 Sam. 8:1-22

Introduction:
A. Israel made a major change in God’s order by demanding a king.
   1. God’s government had worked for over 300 years.
   2. God allowed the king, but warned of server consequences.
B. Israel’s example is a blueprint for changing God’s order — five factors:

Discussion:
I. Poor Performance (v. 3-5).
   A. Poor singing may lead to instrumental music (cf. Ancient Order p. 311).
   B. Poor and ineffective local organization may lead to additional organization (cf. 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
   C. Poor eldership may lead to preacher rule or majority rule.

II. Pernicious Envy (v. 5, 20)
   A. Danger of envying seeming success of wicked (Psa. 37:1-2; Prov. 24:1-2; 19-20)
   B. Easy to envy what denominations have.
   C. God’s way always weak in eyes of unconverted people (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-29).

III. Foolish Pride (v. 20).
   A. Pride often accompanies envy.
   B. Israel wanted king to point to with pride.
   C. Brethren often want programs and institutions to point to with pride.
   D. Pride goes before destruction (Prov. 16:18).
   E. One of three avenues of sin. (1 John 2:15-16)

IV. Shortsightedness (vv. 11-18).
   A. Unwilling to listen to where it would lead.
   B. Interest was in the here and now.
   C. Warnings of knowledgeable brethren are often ignored.

V. Hardheadedness (v. 19).
   A. Determined to have king — no matter what.
   B. Argument: We want it, we will have it, no matter what anyone says.”

Conclusion:
A. The bottom line — rejection of divine authority (v. 7).
B. Cannot reject God’s authority and change his order without consequences (cf. Divide kingdom)