“Give Us A King”
1 Samuel 8:1-6

Introduction:
A. God's way of governing Israel versus Israel's way.
   1. God governed through judges (leaders) as needed.
      a. Weak confederation with no strong central government.
      b. Raised up to meet crisis after periods of rest.
   2. Israel demanded a king.
      a. Wanted stronger central government.
      b. Rejected God's rule. (v. 7).
      c. Warned of consequences. (vv. 9-18).
      d. Stubbornly insisted: “We will have a king...” (v.19-22).
B. God's way rejected because of three contributing factors:

Discussion:
I. The People's Exploitation Of Abuse. (vv. 1-5).
   A. No excuse for abandoning God's order.
      1. Preachers sometimes become “pastors” and “hirelings”.
      2. Elders sometimes become “lords over God's heritage”.
      3. Discipline sometimes is ineffective, mishandled, vengeful.
   B. No excuse to substitution our order.
      1. Cannot use poor congregational function as excuse for additional and/or larger organization. (cf. 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
      2. Cannot use poor worship to excuse “spontaneous worship”. (cf. 1 Cor. 14:40).
      3. Cannot use poor singing to excuse choirs, solos, quartets, and instrumental music. (cf. Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19).
      4. Cannot use poor eldership to excuse preacher rule or majority rule.

II. The People's Desire For Conformity. (vv. 5,20)
   A. God's people should not be led by “nations”. (cf. Neh. 13:23,24; Rom. 12,1,2).
      1. Yet, many want to “fit-in” the “mainstream”. (cf. Miss. elder's statement)
   B. God's people should lead the “nations.” (cf. Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:15-16).
      1. In morals.
      2. In decency.
      3. In religion.

III. The People's Stubborn Conceit. (vv. 19,20).
   A. Manifested by an inordinate desire to impress others. (1 Cor. 1:21-2:5)
      1. With our wisdom.
      2. With our leaders. (Insist on fleshly standards for preachers, elders, etc.).
      3. With our church: Worship, work, and organization.
   B. Manifested by exalting ourselves. (cf. 1 Cor. 4:6).
      1. Determined to have our way. (v. 19)
      2. Determined to have our results. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:5,6).

Conclusion:
A. We need to learn to live “in the world” without being “of the world.”
B. We need to learn that MY way may not be GOD'S way.
C. We need to learn to correct failures in working God's way rather than rejecting His way.