**“But they have rejected Me”**

(1 Samuel 8) READ

Many lessons could be learned, but I want to focus on two we can take from the text.

**Intent (Differentiating between foreknowledge and fate)**

* In our text, two points noted here.  **First**, Israel rejected God, thus bringing the king to Israel (This a matter of will. If they were not willful, the Judge would have remained. **Second**, the Kingship in Israel is indisputably a part of God’s plan). **Were the people fated to sin? NO!**
* God knew the people would sin, and incorporated it into his plan for redeeming man (Kingship in Judah) **(cf. Ephesians 1:3-ff)**
* But, God does not fate men to sin. “Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes.” **(Ecclesiastes 7:29)**

**(James 1:13-15),** “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

* God tested Abraham (Genesis 22). Abraham could have failed that test
* God “hardened” Pharaoh’s heart (Exodus 5-12). Pharaoh could have acknowledged God
* The people could have entered the land, avoiding the wandering of a generation
* The people of our text could have NOT rejected God in His reign
* Rehoboam could have reigned wisely, and the kingdoms would not have been split.
* Jereboam could have served God, and idolatry would not have been introduced into Israel
* ON and ON and ON. God did not fate these things, but he knew they would happen.
* Abraham, David, the remnant, were all part of God’s plan because of His foreknowledge

**“They have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them” (vs. 7)**

* Self will equals a rejection of God in His reign (Always!)

**(Matthew 28:18-20),** “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Examples:

* Men reject God when they change the institution of Marriage **(Genesis 2:24),** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
* Men reject God when they divorce for any cause **(Matthew 19:8-9),** “He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”
* Men reject God in the Pastor system (youth, 1 Tim. 3; single pastor, Acts 14:23)
* Men reject God in the use of instruments of music **(Ephesians 5:19),** or the change in worship in any way **(Colossians 3:17),** “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

**You can’t thwart God in His determination to redeem mankind. However, you can decide to reject Him, that He should not reign over YOU. And, if you do, you can lose your soul!**