

When There Is No Ruler

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Judges 21:25 In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

When I was a boy living in Western Kentucky, you could almost count on your fingers the number of people in the neighborhood who did not go to church. The influence of the church and the preacher was strong in communities in America back in those days, and people minded their Ps and Qs when the preacher was around. It was a main event if the local pastor came to visit a home, and it seemed like the reprobates in the community cussed less when the preacher was around where they had gathered to tell tall tales. Those same reprobates hid behind the barn to gulp down their Old Heaven Hill, Yellowstone, Old Crow, Jim Beam, or some other rotgut whisky. They didn't want it generally known what their ungodly habits were, because the community disapproved and made it known. Also, when the preacher came around a group of us kids playing somewhere, things got real serious. The same was true to a lesser degree when we were in the presence of a Sunday School teacher or Deacon.

Now, a lot of the things I have just mentioned were not a good measure of how spiritual people were back then, but rather they were a measure of how much influence religion and what was supposed to be representatives of God had on a community. This is the way it has always been, in almost every culture across the world. People who had an established religion among them seemed to instinctively render a certain amount of reverence to its symbols and representatives. There has always been something powerful about an established religion in any society where it existed. But that is all changing. In fact it has already changed in many places. That influence is just about gone from the face of America. People no longer care if they cuss, drink, tell dirty jokes, or anything else in front of a preacher. In fact, there is a kind of irreverence for the things of the Christian religion today that has crept into almost every corner of our culture. Even high ranking leaders in our country speak evil of righteousness, and hate the things related to the glory of God. This is how it goes when men have no rule of law, and this is how it is when societies stop having a reverence for the King of Kings. In the past, our culture has had reverence for the things of Christianity, and this has led to a measure of lawfulness, morality, ethics or principles that were somewhat governed by the rules of God.

Our text looks out over the horizon of Israel in the days after the great Judges of God had come and gone. In this view there were no Judges in Israel...no rulers...as the verse mentions. Things turned sour spiritually and morally in this era, and we can gain a huge lesson from what happened to Israel by looking at this situation. The Jew's religion lost its force without the oversight of religious leaders...leaders that were rulers called Judges over the nation. Let us be warned that we in America are going this same route, and what we see in Israel in these days of our text, we are seeing in America...and for the same reason...there was no king, or ruler in Israel. And, there is no King in America. I am not talking about a secular monarch, but I am talking about the only one who should be King of a Christian influenced nation...that is, Americans are not looking to King Jesus for governance.

I. Some facts that show that King Jesus is not King in the United States anymore:

- ❖ About 232,000,000 adult citizens in the U.S.
 - 37,352,000 (16.1% of the U.S. adult population) with no religious affiliation. This figure is up dramatically from 20 years ago, and the bulk of these non-affiliated people are adults between 18-29.
 - 10,904,000 (4.7%) with non-Christian religious affiliation - that is to say, these people do not recognize King Jesus at all as King (Buddhists, Muslims, other non-Christian religions).
 - 181,888,000 (78.4%) "Christian" affiliation (includes evangelical, mainstream, Catholic, Mormon, J.W., Greek and Russian Orthodox, Miscellaneous)
 - Of this almost 182 million "Christian" affiliated adults, it is estimated that only about 38 million (21%) of them attend church regularly (at least once a week).
 - If this number is valid, it means that we only have about 16% of adult Americans that we can say (whether they are in error or not) acknowledge Jesus as a high priority in their lives.
 - Another sobering note: only 20% of these 182,000,000 "Christian" affiliated adults are Baptists (36,400,000) and if only 16% of them are regular church attenders, that number would be only 5,824,000 across the entire country.
- ❖ What am I saying? Jesus Christ is not King in America anymore. Furthermore, I would dare to say that in organized Christian religion in America that Jesus Christ is not King.

II. Now we want to look at bible-proofs that Jesus Christ is not King in America. The proof lies in the last statement in our text: “every man did *that which was right in his own eyes.*”

- ❖ To prove this, let’s start at the House of God, and among professing Christians
 - Question: where did professing Christians ever get the idea that attention to the things of God, the service of God, and the worship of God was arbitrary? and that every Christian could do that which was right in his own eyes regarding:
 - church attendance,
 - attention to worship,
 - attention to Christian conduct,
 - obedience to the commandments of God, etc
 - Is Jesus Christ not King in the Israel of God in America?
 - There are other signs from bible history: Judges 19:1-2 - This part of scripture is the start of an account that closes with our text verse.
 - Infidelity has become the status quo among married people nowadays. It is a terrible plague among Americans. It is a disease in the land where there is no divine King.
 - Hint: this concubine is a legal wife, and she is representative, not of unfaithful women, but of unfaithful spouses of any sex.
 - Then, v.2: The father aids and abets this abandonment and adultery
 - When Jesus is not there as King, men condone and even abet bad behavior of their children, even to the point of condoning and abetting bad behavior in regard to marriage, separation, and divorce.
 - Couples who will divorce are close to 50% of the population in America. This has at least doubled in the last two-three decades.
- ❖ Next - Background: In vv. 3-10, the Levite took his wife and headed back home after staying too long at her Father’s house. They make it as far as Gibeah, and the Levite decides to stay the night in Gibeah, but nobody offers to let him stay with them, so he makes up his mind to sleep on the street. Finally, an old man coming home sees them, and offers his hospitality.
- ❖ Now, Judges 19:20-28 - They are resting, eating, and drinking when suddenly a gang of bi-sexuals assault the house and demand that the Levite be turned over to them and submit himself to their perversity. The host and the Levite finally turns over the Levite’s wife (tries to turn over his daughter) to the men to distract them from their purpose with the Levite. They abuse the woman and kill her.

- ❖ Here is what we see when Jesus Christ is not King:
 - The perverted segment of such a society has no respect for someone else's property, nor individual freedoms - In 2013, there were 8,632,512 property crimes (criminal property damage, theft, burglary, etc. and more than 1 million violent crimes in the U.S. in 2013.
 - They expect and demand that the rest of their community go along with perverse sexual orientation, and that the community condone and assist them in it; and make no complaint to the law about it.
 - Folks, we need to keep in mind that although the law of the land condones and promotes perverted behavior, that perverted behavior is still against the laws of God.
 - There is no power in the law (when Christ is not King) to prevent such men from abusing the rest of their society with their agenda
 - Nothing today is quite as obvious as the fact that the law condoning, and even giving protected status to, twisted and perverted behavior and those laws force upright citizens to go along with the lawless acts.
 - Good men cave in to hostile aggressive activity by the perverted segment of their society, and make concessions to them - today, we call this political correctness
 - Sexual violence and abuse of the weak is rampant - 79,770 reported rapes in 2013- we don't know how many abuses of children occurred.
 - Murder is rampant - 14,196 murders in 2013
 - Concessions and compromise to keep peace with the lawless, perverted wicked portion of a society only produces destructive consequences - how many Israelites were killed in the war of justice that followed this event, and that provoked it.
 - What is one of the prevalent things we hear about today that is occurring in the world of crime in the U.S? It is that criminals get paroled and the next thing we hear they are back committing their crimes again.
- ❖ Jesus Christ is not King in America
- ❖ As we continue to track this event, let's look back to **Judges 20:12-14** and see more results when Christ is not King:
- ❖ The legislative and decision-making segment of a society excuses and defends the lawlessness of the wicked - Do we realize that when the judgment of men becomes corrupted by personal opinion and personal emotion without regard for the law, without regard for what is right or what is wrong, then corrupt verdicts will abound?
 - The death penalty is being struck from the law of state after state

- Criminals are being paroled on a whim - In 2013, Obama released 67,879 illegal immigrants WHO HAD CRIMINAL RECORDS
- Murderers, robbers, sex offenders, are everywhere and the law only takes action after they commit a crime
- Courts look for ways to turn bad people loose
- There is a corrupted judgment in our courts when a man can get 5 years for grand theft and only 6 months for murder or manslaughter - this is excusing lawlessness
- Presidents pardon people who should remain in prison forever
- ❖ Jesus Christ is not King in America

III. What should we as true believers do?

- ❖ Advertise Jesus Christ as your King
- ❖ Advertise the principles of the Kingdom of Christ as your principles
- ❖ Live the principles of the Kingdom of Christ
- ❖ Stand against those things that oppose the principles set forth by our King
- ❖ Pray for the restoration of spiritual health in our nation