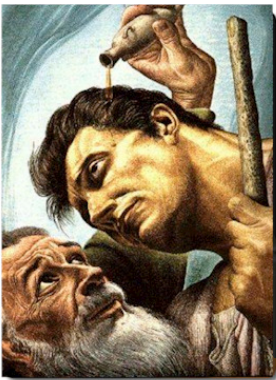


## CONSEQUENCES OF A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT



--By Kendall Faull

**I Samuel 8:11-20**, "He said, 'This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and other to plow his ground

and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day.'" But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

In this passage the people of Israel reject the form of government God gave their forefathers. Rather than being governed by the Law of Moses administered by judges and elected Elders of the 12 tribes, they chose a strong central government with a KING who was above the law. In so doing, they created a tyranny that led them into a civil war that permanently split the nation within a couple generations. And after a hundred years these kings guided them into national captivity and the destruction of their nation.

Here are the things that Samuel warned them would come with the tyranny of a strong, central government:

**1. A military draft – vs 11.**

"He said, 'This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots."

**2. Nationalization of agriculture and development of a military industrial complex – vs 12.**

"Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and other to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots"

**3. Forced national service of young men and women – vs 13.**

"He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers."

**4. Abuse of eminent domain to give the best real estate to those political insiders and cronies – vs 14.**

"He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants."

**5. High taxes on your profit will be used to line the pockets of political cronies – vs 15.**

"He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants."

**6. You will have to work in a way dictated by the government to pay the government so the government will provide your basic needs in return.**

You won't be able to afford to own anything substantial or take care of yourself. In other words, you're a slave – vs 16.

"Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use."

7. **High taxes on your possessions to line the pockets of political cronies – vs 17.**

“He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves.”

8. **The people will cry out for relief but won't get any from their leaders whom rule over them tyrannically – vs 18a.**

“When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen...”

9. **Because people have turned from God and put their 'hope' in men, God will not answer their cries – vs 18b.**

“...and the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

10. **The reason people give up their independence, liberty, and rights is because they want a strong central government to protect them, provide for them and because they want to “be like the other nations.” – vs 19-20**

“But the people refused to listen to Samuel. ‘No!’ they said. ‘We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.’”

Does any of this sound familiar? What do we do? Verse 9, “Now therefore hearken unto their voice: **howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.**”