

# LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

## 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Lent Devotion/Day 9/Thursday, February 25, 2021

Deuteronomy 17:14-15

When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," be sure to appoint over you a king the Lord your God chooses.

1 Samuel 8:4-7

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." ...[Samuel] prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

John 19:14-15

It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Read also Matthew 6:10, 27:27-29 and 41-42, and Revelation 19:16

**Meditation:** When we reject God as our King, we repeat an age-old cycle of sin, discipline, repentance, restoration and sin again. God longs to be our one and only King, but we want to follow a human; so, sadly, God often gives us what we ask for.

For the Israelites, king after king after king failed to produce a people who could represent God's kingdom virtues and values on earth. Some kings were better than others, but not one was able to rule the people of God in the manner of God. Eventually, God had only one choice: He sent his own Son into the world to deliver the people from their enemies. This One would be "the King of the Jews." This King came in the form of a servant. He allowed those he came to rule to mock and ridicule him. But, as difficult as this is to imagine, it was through the bloodied, disfigured and crucified King that the will of the Father was finally accomplished, and we are brought into victory and blessing.

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, you and you alone are worthy of being called "King." You are the Lamb who was slain whose blood purchased for God the people from every tribe and tongue and nation. And I join with the saints of old in praying, "Maranatha! Lord, come quickly!" Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

-from **once a day/40 Days to Easter**, Kenneth Boa and John Allen Turner, Zondervan