

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"
November 18, 2014

Be careful for what you ask for

1 SAMUEL 8:7-9 NKJV – (7) And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. (8) According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. (9) Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

Psalm 106, a personal favorite, provides "behind the scenes" information about some of the Bible stories so familiar to us. It is a greatest hits tour of events in Israelite history, beginning with the Exodus through the conquest of Canaan. As the Psalmist "retells" these events, more information is shared that helps explain events. For instance, we learn in **106:32-33** the reason the Lord was angry with Moses for striking the water-giving rock is because Moses allowed the people to provoke him to speak rashly. This further opportunity at understanding is not offered in the story's scripture at **Numbers 2:2-13** however, biblical scholars sometimes call this type of retelling "Re-written Bible".

Psalm **106:14-15** retells **Numbers 11**. The people of Israel complain that all they have to eat is manna and how they wish they had meat. Upon hearing this, Moses complains to God about the people; God then promises they will be given meat. The next day a wind blows in from the sea and the camp fills up with an outrageous amount of Quail for the Israelites to eat. However, as they are eating the meat, the Lord's anger reigns on them and they are struck with a plague (**Numbers 11:33**). Numbers does not give any details regarding the plague, only that those who had so badly craved the meat were left buried at the site where they enjoyed what they craved. When this event is retold in **Psalm 106**, the Psalmist adds interpretive details, providing a greater depth of understanding to the reader. The people are described as having an intense craving that caused them to put God to the test (**106:14**). God's response was to give the people what they wanted, along with a "wasting in their being" (**106:15**).

So what does **1 SAMUEL 8:7-9** have to do with this? It is eerily similar. The people forgot God, ignoring who was responsible for leading, protecting and providing for them. As a result, the people were made to suffer under the hands of King Saul. "They had the best, but they wanted the rest" - a reminder of peoples' behavior today.

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 106

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Seven days of little or no prayer, leads to one being weak.