

Here you will find the 'Tanakh' (Biblical) Attitude to the Notion of a King of (for) Israel.

The beginning of the implications and of the reality . . .

Deut Chapter 17: 14 - 20

יד כי-תבא אל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ, וּירָשָׁתָהּ, וַיִּשְׁבְּתָהּ
בָּהּ; וְאָמַרְתָּ, אֲשִׁימָה עָלַי מֶלֶךְ,
כְּכֹל-הַגּוֹיִם, אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתַי.

14 When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein; and shalt say: 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are round about me';

טו שׁוֹם תָּשִׂים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר
יִבְחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בּוֹ: מִקְרֵב
אֲחִיךָ, תָּשִׂים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ--לֹא תוֹכֵל
לָתֵת עָלֶיךָ אִישׁ נָכְרִי, אֲשֶׁר
לֹא-אֲחִיךָ הוּא.

15 thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose; one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee; thou mayest not put a foreigner over thee, who is not thy brother.

טז וְלֹא יִשְׁיב אֶת-הָעָם מִצְרַיִמָּה, לְמַעַן
הַרְבֹּת סוּסִים; וַיְהוָה, אָמַר לָכֶם, לֹא
תִסְפּוּן לָשׁוּב בַּדֶּרֶךְ הַזֶּה, עוֹד.

16 Only he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses; forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you: 'Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.'

יז ולא ירבה-לו נשים, ולא יסור
לבבו; וכסף וזהב, לא ירבה-לו
מאד. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself,
that his heart turn not away; neither shall he
greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

יח והיה כשבתו, על כסא
ממלכתו--וכתב לו את-משנה
התורה הזאת, על-ספר, מלפני,
הכהנים הלויים. 18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the
throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him
a copy of this law in a book, out of that which
is before the priests the Levites.

יט והיתה עמו, וקרא בו כל-ימי
חיי-ו--למען ילמד, ליראה את-יהוה
אלהיו, לשמר את-כל-דברי התורה
הזאת ואת-החקים האלה,
לעשתם. 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read
therein all the days of his life; that he may
learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all
the words of this law and these statutes, to
do them;

כ לבלתי רום-לבבו מאחיו,
ולבלתי סור מן-המצוה ימין
ושמאל--למען יאריך ימים
על-ממלכתו הוא ובניו, בקרב
ישראל. {ס} 20 that his heart be not lifted up above his
brethren, and that he turn not aside from the
commandment, to the right hand, or to the
left; to the end that he may prolong his days
in his kingdom, he and his children, in the
midst of Israel. {S}

שְׁמוּאֵל א 8 Samuel Chapter 1

א ויהי, כאשר זקן שמואל; וישם
את-בניו שפטים, לישראל. 1 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old,
that he made his sons judges over Israel.

- ב וַיְהִי שֵׁם-בְּנוֹ הַבְּכוֹר יוֹאֵל, וְשֵׁם
מִשְׁנֵהוּ אַבִּיחַ--שְׁפָטִים, בְּבֵאֵר
שֶׁבַע. 2 Now the name of his first-born was Joel; and
the name of his second, Abijah; they were
judges in Beer-sheba.
- ג וְלֹא-הֵלְכוּ בְּנָיו בְּדַרְכּוֹ, וַיִּטּוּ אַחֲרֵי
הַבָּצַע; וַיִּקְחוּ-שֹׁחַד--וַיִּטּוּ, מִשְׁפָּט.
{פ} 3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but
turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and
perverted justice. {P}
- ד וַיִּתְקַבְּצוּ, כָּל זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיָּבֹאוּ
אֶל-שָׁמוּאֵל, הָרָמָתָה. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered
themselves together, and came to Samuel
unto Ramah.
- ה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו, הִנֵּה אַתָּה זָקֵן, וּבְנֶיךָ,
לֹא הֵלְכוּ בְּדַרְכֶיךָ; עֲתָה,
שִׁמָּה-לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשֹׁפְטֵנוּ--
כְּכָל-הַגּוֹיִם. 5 And they said unto him: 'Behold, thou art old,
and thy sons walk not in thy ways; now make
us a king to judge us like all the nations.'
- ו וַיִּרַע הַדָּבָר, בְּעֵינֵי שָׁמוּאֵל, כַּאֲשֶׁר
אָמְרוּ, תִּנְהַל-לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשֹׁפְטֵנוּ;
וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל שָׁמוּאֵל, אֶל-יְהוָה. {פ} 6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they
said: 'Give us a king to judge us.' And Samuel
prayed unto the LORD. {P}
- ז וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, אֶל-שָׁמוּאֵל, שְׁמַע
בְּקוֹל הָעָם, לְכָל אֲשֶׁר-יֹאמְרוּ אֵלֶיךָ:
כִּי לֹא אֶתְּךָ מָאָסוּ, כִּי-אֶתִּי מָאָסוּ
מִמֶּלֶךְ עָלֵיהֶם. 7 And the LORD said unto Samuel: 'Hearken
unto the voice of the people in all that they say
unto thee; for they have not rejected thee, but
they have rejected Me, that I should not be
king over them.'
- ח כְּכָל-הַמַּעֲשִׂים אֲשֶׁר-עָשׂוּ, מִיּוֹם
הָעָלִיתִי אוֹתָם מִמִּצְרַיִם וְעַד-הַיּוֹם
הַזֶּה, וַיַּעֲזְבוּנִי, וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֱלֹהִים
אַחֲרָיִם--כִּן הִמָּה עֹשִׂים, גַּם-לָךְ. 8 According to all the works which they have
done since the day that I brought them up out
of Egypt even unto this day, in that they have
forsaken Me, and served other gods, so do
they also unto thee.

ט ועתה, שמע בקולם: אך, כי-העד תעיד בהם, והגדת להם, משפט המלך אשר ימלך עליהם. {ס}

9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice; howbeit thou shalt earnestly forewarn them, and shalt declare unto them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.' {S}

י ויאמר שמואל, את כל-דברי יהוה, אל-העם, השאלים מאתו מלך. {ס}

10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. {S}

יא ויאמר--זה יהיה משפט המלך, אשר ימלך עליכם: את-בניכם יקח, ושם לו במרכבתו ובפרשיו, ורצו, לפני מרכבתו.

11 And he said: 'This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: he will take your sons, and appoint them unto him, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and they shall run before his chariots.

יב ולשום לו, שרי אלפים ושרי חמשים; ולחרש חרישו ולקצר קצירו, ולעשות כלי-מלחמתו וכלי רכבו.

12 And he will appoint them unto him for captains of thousands, and captains of fifties; and to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his chariots.

יג ואת-בנותיכם, יקח, לרקחות ולטבחות, ולאפות.

13 And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

יד ואת-שדותיכם ואת-כרמיכם וזיתיכם, הטובים--יקח; ונתן, לעבדיו.

14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

טו וְזָרְעֵיכֶם וְכַרְמֵיכֶם, יַעֲשֶׂר; וְנָתַן לְסָרִיסָיו, וְלַעֲבָדָיו. 15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

טז וְאֶת-עֲבָדֵיכֶם וְאֶת-שִׁפְחוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֶת-בְּחֹרֵיכֶם הַטּוֹבִים, וְאֶת-חֲמוֹרֵיכֶם--יִקַּח; וַעֲשֵׂה, לְמַלְאכָתוֹ. 16 And he will take your men-servants, and your maid-servants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

יז צֹאנֵיכֶם, יַעֲשֶׂר; וְאַתֶּם, תִּהְיוּ-לוֹ לַעֲבָדִים. 17 He will take the tenth of your flocks; and ye shall be his servants.

יח וְזָעַקְתֶּם, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, מִלִּפְנֵי מַלְכְּכֶם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַרְתֶּם לָכֶם; וְלֹא-יַעֲנֶה יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא. 18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king whom ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not answer you in that day.'

יט וַיִּמָּאֲנוּ הָעָם, לִשְׁמַע בְּקוֹל שְׁמוּאֵל; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא, כִּי אִם-מֶלֶךְ יִהְיֶה עָלֵינוּ. 19 But the people refused to hearken unto the voice of Samuel; and they said: 'Nay; but there shall be a king over us;

כ וְהָיינוּ גַם-אֲנַחְנוּ, כְּכָל-הַגּוֹיִם; וְשִׁפְטָנוּ מֶלֶכְנוּ וַיִּצָּא לִפְנֵינוּ, וְנִלְחַם אֶת-מִלְחַמֹּתֵנוּ. 20 that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.'

כא וישמע שמואל, את כל-דברי
העם; וידברם, באזני יהוה. {פ}

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the
people, and he spoke them in the ears of the
LORD. {P}

כב ויאמר יהוה אל-שמואל שמע
בקולם, והמלכת להם מלך; ויאמר
שמואל אל-אנשי ישראל, לכו איש
לעירו. {פ}

22 And the LORD said to Samuel: 'Hearken
unto their voice, and make them a king.' And
Samuel said unto the men of Israel: 'Go ye
every man unto his city.' {P}