

1 Samuel 8:1-22 **Israel Demands a King**

Wicked Sons of Samuel

1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. 3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

Israel Demands a King – God is rejected as Ruler of the People

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5 and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord. 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."

Behavior of a human king – You will cry out but God will not hear in that day

10 So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. 11 And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. 12 He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. 14 And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. 15 He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. 16 And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. 18 And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day."

A King will fight our battles for us – God said, "Make them a king

19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, 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."

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the Lord. 22 So the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king."

And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Wicked Sons of Samuel [1 Samuel 8:1-3]

- ✧ The sons of Samuel were Joel and Abijah whom Samuel made judges in Beersheba.
- ✧ Samuel's sons went after **dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.**
- ✧ When Moses chose Elders to judge the people, the men chosen were required to have special qualifications for the job.

Moreover you shall select from all the people **able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness;** and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. [Exodus 18:21-22 NKJV]

"You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute. **Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous.** For I will not justify the wicked. And you shall **take no bribe**, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous. [Exodus 23:6-8 NKJV]

- ✧ It is surprising to see that Samuel, who was himself a miracle baby born to a woman of faith who was barren, given to the Lord on loan for life, raised by Eli the priest whose sons were wicked, confirmed the prophecy against Eli and his house, and witnessed the fulfillment of the prophecy, and whom the Lord established as prophet in Israel, would end up with such wicked sons, especially after taking such a strong stand calling the people to repentance.
- ✧ We see in this the righteousness of God's words to the prophets, "A man will not die for the wickedness of his sons, nor the son for the wickedness of the father." [Deuteronomy 24:16, Jeremiah 31:30, Ezekiel 18:4, 20]
- ✧ Like Eli, Samuel had the authority and knowledge to correct his sons, but he did nothing to stop them or remove them from office even when the people complained against them.

Israel Demands a King – God is rejected as Ruler of the People [1 Samuel 8:4-9]

- ✧ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Look, you are old, and **your sons do not walk in your ways.** Now **make us a king to judge us like all the nations.**" [1 Samuel 8:4-5]
 - ✧ Samuel's sons were not acceptable to the Elders of the people, so they requested a king for the avowed reason to be their **judge and to be like all the nations.**
 - ✧ Desiring to be like all the pagan nations around them is not a proper attitude for the people of God.
 - ✧ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "**Give us a king to judge us.**" So Samuel prayed to the Lord. [1 Samuel 8:6]
 - ✧ 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.**" [1 Samuel 8:7]
- 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. [1 Samuel 8:8]
- ✧ God looks at the motive of the heart and discerns the truth no matter how men attempt to justify themselves, their words and their actions. [1 Samuel 16:7, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Hebrews 4:12-13]
 - ✧ The people have not changed from the time The Lord brought them out of the land of Egypt, they continue to turn from their God to serve foreign gods.

- ✧ Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them." [1 Samuel 8:9]
- ✧ Even as God relents to give the people their desire, He instructs Samuel to advise the people of the consequence of their demand.
- ✧ God knows in advance everything that will come to pass as a consequence to whatever choice mankind will make and warns us up front before the choice is confirmed, thus demonstrating His omniscient power and foreknowledge.
- ✧ Nothing we ever do will catch God by surprise, or change the truth of His Word.

Behavior of a human king – You will cry out but God will not hear in that day [1 Samuel 8:10-18]

- ✧ So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you:
 - ✧ He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.
 - ✧ He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties.
 - ✧ He will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest.
 - ✧ He will set some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.
 - ✧ He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.
 - ✧ He will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.
 - ✧ He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants.
 - ✧ He will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work.
 - ✧ He will take a tenth of your sheep.
 - ✧ And you will be his servants.
- ✧ And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day."
 - ✧ When we do our own will as opposed to the Will of God, the Lord will not listen to our prayers.
 - ✧ Our prayers are hindered by our stubbornness and rebellion against God's Word.
 - ✧ For **rebellion** is as the sin of **witchcraft**, and **stubbornness** is as **iniquity** and **idolatry**. [1 Sam 15:23 NKJV]

A King will fight our battles for us – God said, "Make them a king [1 Samuel 8:19-22]

- ✧ Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, **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.**" [1 Samuel 8:19-20]
 - ✧ The truth finally came out, **they want to be like the pagan nations** around them, and **they want some one else to be responsible for fighting their wars**, rather than being expected to be a righteous and holy nation so God will protect them.
 - ✧ It is amazing to realize that even after hearing that God will turn away and not listen to our prayers, still people arrogantly choose to harden their hearts to the truth and insist on doing the thing that will become a source of snare and trouble for themselves.
- ✧ And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the Lord. [1 Samuel 8:21]
- ✧ So the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." [1 Samuel 8:22]
- ✧ And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city." [1 Samuel 8:22]