

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

1 Samuel 8

Israel Demands a King

1And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

Due to the lack of specific dates the idea of how old Samuel was is left to speculation. Albeit speculation some amount of calculations from known dates can be used. Commentators range Samuel's age between 60 and 80 at this point in his life.

2Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: *they were judges in Beersheba.* 3And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

God generally calls out those whom will be His Prophets and Judges. He also called out who was to be King. So often and often to the demise of business and countries leadership is transferred from father to son or daughter and so on. To many times we see that the son, daughter or grandson or granddaughter that takes over authority of whatever has no real skin in the game. They did not struggle to bring about a great

nation or business. It was handed to them and human nature seems to degrade the leadership when this happens. There are of course examples where this did not happen, but the degrading is more often than not the case.

We see that even Samuel in all that he had seen from God still deferred to his own sons to carry on the judgeship of Israel. All of Israel, and Samuel would regret that decision. It would bring the Nation to a point of rejecting the former judges in lieu of a King.

4Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 5And 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.

In Israel it had been God's plan that He was the leader of Israel and He would put various people in positions of leadership from the tribe of Levi. This tribe would provide all Priests as the Legal and moral leadership to Israel based on God's Law.

As we have talked about children that do not endure the beginning struggles don't seem to carry the same level of responsibility. We saw that happen with Eli's sons and now we are seeing it happen with Samuel's sons.

The leaders had seen enough even though they great respect of Samuel. Israel felt in danger, and they did not think they had good leadership. With all that in mind of the failures of Priestly leadership, the Tribal leaders of Israel wanted a king like other nations had.

6But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

Giving Samuel the benefit of doubt that his displeasure came from not having God as their King Samuel would do as God directed. Ask God first then do what He says to do.

7And 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 reign over them.

God did take this request as a rejection of Him and He pointed out to Samuel that they were not rejecting he Samuel but rejecting God's leadership.

The challenge for God is and always is that people would not do as they should out of respect and honor to God. God took the greatest risk of all time and that was to give mankind freewill. It has repeatedly brought pain to God and in the end to each human

being. When will we learn that God loves us and gave everything for us, but we reject Him time and time again.

8According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

Samuel would feel the same pain of rejection of the people that God had felt for centuries. But Samuel would have to accept some of the blame in this instance due to him not raising and controlling his own sons as they carried out Priestly duties.

Israel repeatedly turned to other gods even after repeated punishment for their intentional failures. How are we doing in that arena? Have we as a nation learned anything from Israel and their plight to repeatedly reject God as a Nation. Believers, have broken hearts to see those who hate God, hate a nation founded by God and as we have seen this week hate a person like Charlie Kirk because of his beliefs. Hatred is sourced in Satan. It was in the day of Samuel and is today. Satan is the author of lies hatred and murder. Come Lord Jesus!

9Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

I sense that Samuel was surprised by God's response. Samuel had always feared God and held Him as the King of Israel. Now to hear that God was telling him Samuel to tell Israel what it would be like to have a king of flesh was startling to Samuel. But, even as God told Samuel to do as they wanted God said this:

“howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them”

In other words, God wanted Samuel to tell them about the mistake they were about to embark on. Removing God as King and replacing Him with a man would not bode well for Israel.

Samuel's Warning About Kings

10And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. 11And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you:

Strong's concordance finds in the original Greek that the term instead of “manner” is “judgement” the word being

Pronunciation: mish-PAWT

Phonetic Spelling: (mish-pawt')

1. (properly) a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree (human or (participant's) divine law, individual or collective), including the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty

Meaning from God's perspective that what they are asking for will be granted in the form of a “judgement”.

Now follows how the “judgement” will work out.

He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots. 12And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear **(plow) **insert mine** his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. 13And he will take your daughters *to be* confectionaries, and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers. 14And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, *even the best of them*, and give *them* to his servants. 15And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. 16And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work. 17He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. 18And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.**

Israel will feel the oppression of a Monarchy, they will lose their autonomy in service to the kingdom and its King. Israel will be a King ruled nation, not a God ruled nation.

God Grants the Request

19Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

The wisdom of man in reality is no wisdom at all when removed from God’s Wisdom. It is pure folly for man to rule his own life. If

you have not figured that out yet you will in time. We need God's Will in our lives, not our own will. The price we pay for putting our will over God's Will is unfathomable. We are to fear God, for it is the beginning of Wisdom. Not our wisdom, but by fearing God we can start to grasp His Wisdom.

20That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

Just like in the time of Jesus, the Jews in Samuel's day wanted a Warrior King, not a Servant King. And battles Israel will have and the cost will be everything.

21And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

Rehearsed means to repeat what the Leaders of Israel said to Samuel, Samuel repeated them to the Lord God. Samuel was a mediator just like Moses was between Israel and their God.

22And 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.

The deed is done. Samuel through God's response sends all of Israel to their homes. Samuel with God's guidance will reveal who God has chosen as Israel's first King.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James