

## 15.08 Israel Demands a King (1 Samuel 8:1–22)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows  
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- A poster board crown with small pictures to indicate Samuel’s warnings about the demands of a king (see below)
- Coins, actual or play money, of different values. Provide one coin for each student.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *bribe*: money or something else of value offered or given to someone to get them to do something you want them to do
- *justice*: being fair and reasonable according to the law
- *humble*: having or showing a low estimate of one’s own importance.

### Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 8:1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. 3 Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah 5 and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for 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.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. 8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. 9 Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. 11 He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. 12 And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. 15 He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. 16 He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. 18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

19 But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be 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 when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey their voice and make them a king.” Samuel then said to the men of Israel, “Go every man to his city.”

## **Introduction/Review:**

God answered Hannah's request for a son, and she gave that baby to God for service to Him all his life. When this son, Samuel, was a young boy, God called him at night and prophesied the end of Eli the priest's family line. In one day Israel lost a battle, Eli's sons perished, Eli died, and the ark of the covenant went to the land of the Philistines. That ark caused so much trouble for the Philistines that they sent it back to Israel. Later, Israel won victories over the Philistines, and Samuel set up a rock named *Ebenzer*, meaning "to this day the Lord has helped us."

## **Story:**

[Teacher, give each student a coin and tell them you will ask for it later. Note which student has the coin of highest value.]

### ***Bribes***

Let's pretend I'm a judge, and the boys have a conflict with the girls. The boys say, "It's not fair that you girls get to play with play dough more than we do." The girls say, "No, that's not true." Both boys and girls come to me, the judge, to decide who's right. I say, "How much money can you give me? If you boys give me more money than the girls, I'll say the boys are right. But if the girls give me more money, I'll say they are right." [Have the boys give their money; count it. Have the girls give their money; count it. Render a decision based on the most money.]

Would it be right to do what I just did? No. Money given in order to pervert judgment is called a bribe. A judge should make decisions based on the law or what is right, not on who gives him more money. The Bible states a judge should not judge in favor of the rich *or* the poor (Deuteronomy 1:17).

Remember how Eli's sons were wicked before the Lord? When Samuel grew older, he made his own sons judges in Beersheba [locate on map in southern Israel]. Although Samuel's sons weren't as wicked as Eli's sons, they were not honest and godly like Samuel. They did not walk in Samuel's ways but loved to get money and took bribes in order to decide how they would judge.

### ***Leaders***

Let's leave our story for a minute and review how God had ruled His people. From time to time He had raised up a man. He would tell that man what to do. If the people were in danger from their enemies, the leader would save Israel by God's strength.

Think about Moses. How did God lead His people through Moses? [Gave manna; pillar of cloud and fire; Red Sea; holding up hands in battle.] Who delivered Israel? God. Whom did God use? [A humble man, Moses.]

Think about Joshua. How did God work through Joshua. [Crossed the Jordan; Jericho; battles won by hailstones.] Who delivered Israel? [God.] Whom did God use? [Humble Joshua.]

Think about the judges. How did God work? [Slaying enemies with a donkey's jawbone; using only 300 men to defeat innumerable enemy soldiers; using a woman to slay an enemy leader, *etc.*] Who delivered? [God.] Whom did God use? [Humble men and women whom He raised up.]

Think about Samuel. How did God work? [Philistines ran from thunder.] Who delivered? [God.] Whom did God use? [Samuel, a humble man.]

Remember, God had used humble men whom He had directed and empowered.

### ***Kings***

Now, let's go back to the story. At this point in the Bible, God was using Samuel to lead Israel. However, Samuel was getting old. He had made his sons judges, but they didn't do the job right, taking bribes to make their decisions.

Somewhere along the way, the leaders of Israel had gotten together to hatch a plan. Now they came to Samuel's house. "You're old Samuel," they said, "and your sons don't walk in your ways. Here's our plan: make us a king (and it won't be you)—just like all the nations."

If I had been Samuel and those leaders had come to me, I probably would have been hurt and might have cried right then and there. "You don't like what I'm doing? I get my orders from God! Am I that bad a judge?"

### **Warnings**

Well, the Bible doesn't say Samuel cried, but it does say he was displeased. He went right to the Lord in prayer, and the Lord answered him: "Listen to what the people say; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me—that I should not reign over them. Ever since I brought them out of Egypt, they have forsaken Me and served other gods. That's what they're doing to you now, Samuel. So, listen to them, but warn them very sternly what a king will do."

Samuel told all these words to the people, and this is what he warned: A king will—

1. Take your sons for chariot riders, for horsemen, and to run before his chariots.
2. Make captains over thousands and fifties.
3. Set them to work his ground and reap his harvest.
4. Make instruments of war and for chariots.
5. Make your daughters confectioners, cooks, and bakers.
6. Take your fields, vineyards, and olive yards—even the best—and give them to his servants.
7. Take a tenth of your seed and vineyards and give them to officers and servants.
8. Take your men servants and maid servants and your best young men.
9. Take your donkeys and put them to work.
10. Take a tenth of your sheep.
11. Make you his servants.
12. Then you will cry to the Lord, but He will not hear you.

The people refused to listen to Samuel's warnings. "It doesn't matter! We want a king so that we can be like all the other nations—so that our king may judge us and go out to fight our battles."

Samuel prayed, telling God all that the people had said. Again, God said, "Listen to them, and make them a king." Samuel told Israel, then, to go home, implying that God would let them have a king.

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and Lord of lords, a perfect Ruler. Yet, people refuse His authority over their lives.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: coins of various value; crown
- Snack: Pineapple crowns. Recipe is at [I Did It - You Do It: Snack Crown](#)
- Have students practice righteous justice by play-acting a scene like the following. One student will say to the "righteous judge," "I will give you four cookies if you don't tell Teacher that I lied." The "judge" will answer, "I will not take your bribe. Teacher needs to know the truth."
- Sing "We Want a King" by Diana Dow found at [We Want A King | Bible Songs And More](#). Do not sing the last stanza about Saul but add my following stanzas (as though sung by Samuel) instead:

God is your King! God is your King! He is better than anyone else. So, God is your King!

[Change note values to fit the words.] Trust God more than your king! Trust God more than your king!  
You will get in trouble if you don't trust God more than your king!

(Repeat the stanza as sung by the people, "Give us a king!")

- Review questions: (Game: If using a pocket chart, print small crowns found below on cardstock. If using a flannel board, print on paper and back with paper towel or other flocking material. Cut out individual crowns. For each correct answer, a student first reads the phrase on his crown that tells one of Samuel's warnings. Then the student places the crown in the pocket chart or on the flannel board.)
  1. What kind of judges were Samuel's sons? What did they do to pervert justice? [Took bribes.]
  2. What did the elders of Israel ask Samuel to do? [Give them a king.]
  3. Fill in the blank. The elders wanted a king like all the other \_\_\_\_\_. [Nations.]
  4. Fill in the blank. When the elders said, "Give us a king to judge us," the request \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel. [Displeased.]
  5. What did Samuel do after the elders asked for a king? [Prayed to the Lord.]
  6. What did the Lord say Samuel should do? [Give the people a king as they had asked.]
  7. Whom had the people rejected? [The Lord.]
  8. Fill in the blank. God said Samuel should solemnly \_\_\_\_\_ the people about what the king would do. [Warn.]
  9. Name one of the things Samuel warned the people that a king would do. [Take your sons for chariot riders, for horsemen, and to run before his chariots. Make captains over thousands and fifties. Set them to work his ground and reap his harvest. Make instruments of war and for chariots. Make daughters confectioners, cooks, and bakers. Take your fields, vineyards, and olive yards and give them to his servants. Take a tenth of their seed and vineyards and give them to officers and servants. Take their men servants, maid servants, and best young men. Take their donkeys and put them to work. Take a tenth of their sheep. Make them his servants. Then they would cry to the Lord, but He will not hear them.]
  10. What did the people say after Samuel warned them? [They still wanted a king.]

#### Memory Verse[s]:

- 1 Samuel 17:12: "Thus far the Lord has helped us."
- 1 Samuel 2:30: [God said,] "Those that honor me I will honor, and those that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

#### Handwork:

- Print the large crown found below on yellow or gold heavy paper. Cut out all parts of the crown. Tape the strips to the crown to fit each student's head.

bribe

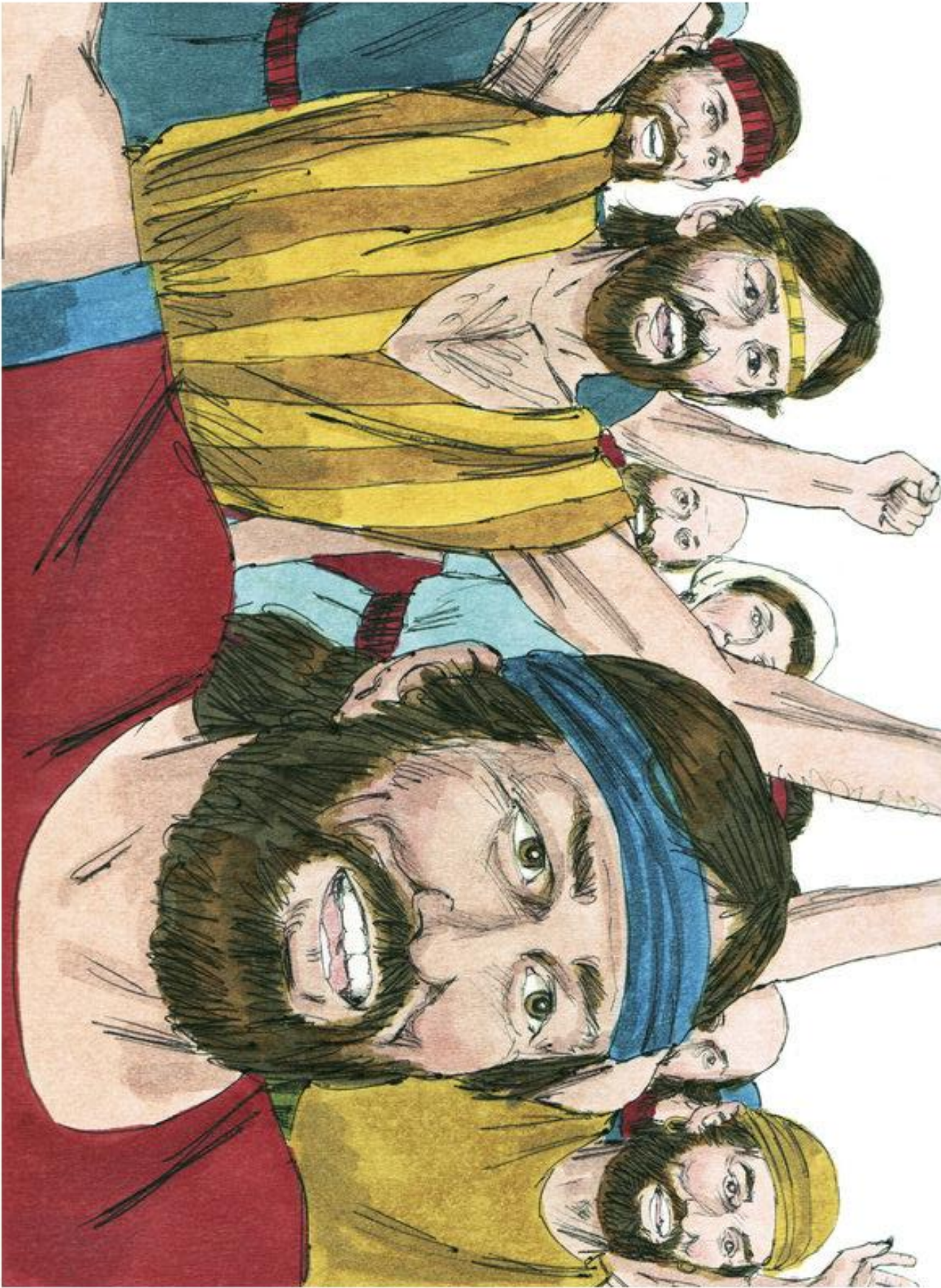
justice

humble

# A king will—

- Take your sons for chariot riders, for horsemen, and to run before his chariots.
- Make captains over thousands and fifties.
- Set them to work his ground and reap his harvest.
- Make instruments of war and for chariots.
- Make daughters confectioners, cooks, and bakers.
- Take your fields, vineyards, and olive yards—even the best—and give them to his servants.
- Take a tenth of your seed and vineyards and give them to officers and servants.
- Take your men servants and maid servants and your best young men.
- Take your donkeys and put them to work.
- Take a tenth of your sheep.
- Make you his servants.
- Then you will cry to the Lord, but He will not hear you.









Make your sons work his ground and  
reap his harvest.

Take your sons for chariot riders and  
for horsemen.

Make your daughters confectioners,  
cooks, and bakers.

Make your sons captains over  
thousands and fifties.

Take of your seed and vineyards.

Take your fields and olive yards.

Take your servants.

Take your donkeys.

Make you his servants.

Take a tenth of your sheep.

CROWN TEMPLATE 3  
(BLANK)

