



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

I SAMUEL 8:1-18

LESSON: GOD GRANTS ISRAEL A KING—June 28, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

1 Sam. 7:12–17 Samuel set up a stone between Mizpeh and Shen and called it Ebenezer, which means "stone of help." The Philistines' reign was over, and they were not to come near or invade the coast of Israel again. God continued to bless the nation of Israel, even the cities in which the Philistines had taken were restored to Israel, and peace was gained with the Amorites; they became allies. Samuel was considered to be God's appointed leader. This chapter concludes with a note on Samuel's circuit, indicating that his authority was well-established, and that it continued throughout his life. He abode in Ramah and there he built an altar unto the Lord.

LESSON:

I. I SAMUEL 8:1-3

1st Samuel 8:1 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. Samuel judged Israel well, but now he has gotten old and he wanted to pass the torch, so, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel.

1st Samuel 8:2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba. Samuel had two sons to judge Israel in his place. "*Joel*" meaning "*Jehovah is God*" was his firstborn and "*Abiah*" meaning "*the LORD is my father*" was his second son.

1st Samuel 8:3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. This tells us that as Samuel placed his sons in such powerful positions did not work, for they refused to walk in the manner of God. They walked in their own ways and not in Samuel or God's ways. They were greedy after money, took bribes, and corrupted the administration of justice.

II. 1 SAMUEL 8:4-5

1st Samuel 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, Things had become so corrupted that it was time for others to step in. The elders of Israel got together and came straight to Samuel in Ramah.

1st Samuel 8:5 And 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. The elders began to tell Samuel that his age has gotten in the way; too old. And his sons are walking all over him, for his sons were not walking in his ways. So, the answer they suggested for their situation is for Samuel to make them a king to judge like all the other nations. Samuel's sons were not good judge material.

¹<http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/1samuel/08.html>
<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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Now the elders want their own king in power; never mind consulting God or what He wants to be in their lives as a nation.

III. 1 SAMUEL 8:6-9

1st Samuel 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. Aha, now Samuel is displeased! So, they don't want Samuel's choice anymore, they want their own choice—a king. Samuel now goes to God to pray.

1st Samuel 8:7 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 reign over them. And what do you know, God tells Samuel to listen to the voice of the people (they have spoken) for they know what they want, and it wasn't God. So, Samuel is not to get angry or mad because God tells him that it wasn't about (Samuel) that the people had rejected, but it was God Himself that they have rejected. They didn't want God to reign as King any longer over them. They rather have a man like other nations; one they can see like them; one in the flesh, and not of the Spirit! And one that's an earthly, and not a heavenly King!

1st Samuel 8:8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. And God says as they have done from the day He brought them out of Egypt, they are still doing it today, that is: they have forsaken Him, and served other gods. They are behaving in a similar fashion with Samuel, for they are forgetting all he's done for them when he goes to God on their behalf, and it's so funny and very disturbing how they so quickly forget what God had done for them.

1st Samuel 8:9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. God tells Samuel to listen as they voice what they want, but solemnly (seriously) warn them of your disapproval; show them the procedure and ways of the king who will rule over them; what rights their king will have over them, for they have never had a king before. Warn them of the consequences, so that they would have full knowledge of their actions when they don't take your advice.

IV. 1 SAMUEL 8:10-18

1st Samuel 8:10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. Samuel was very specific in telling them all the words of the LORD.

1st Samuel 8:11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. Samuel began to instruct them in specific details of the manner of the king. The king will conscript; literally take their sons and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen, and make their sons run before his chariots. Samuel carefully explained all the negative consequences of having a king.

1st Samuel 8:12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and





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will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. This part of the verse highlights the economic demands a king would place upon the people. He will appoint some for himself as commanders of thousands and of fifties, and others to plow his ground, to reap his harvest, and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. So, all of this would address

- Military hierarchy.
- Forced labor.
- A Cost for ordinary Families

²This will be almost like slave labor. They will not be free to raise their own crops. Those, whom the king chooses, will grow the king's crops and harvest them. They will lose all of their independence. They will not be building for themselves, but for the king. This means that human strength will be used more, than God's Divine strength.

1st Samuel 8:13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. Samuel specifies the authority and power that the king will have. The taking of daughters signifies the loss of personal freedom and the imposition of royal demands for them to be confectionaries referring to female perfumers or ointment makers who blended spices and oils. And to be cooks and bakers. This is for whatever the king had an appetite for.

1st Samuel 8:14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. Nothing will be hidden from the king's grip. ³Their land they inherited from God, will not be theirs to grow their own crops. They will be working to benefit the king. ⁴The "**best of your fields**" signifies the most fertile and productive land, which would have been essential for sustaining. "**Vineyards**" were a symbol of prosperity and blessings. "**Olive oil**" was a vital commodity in ancient Israel, used for cooking, lighting, anointing religious offerings. The king will claim all of the good land, **and all** that was taken from the people will be given to his officers and servants.

1st Samuel 8:15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. This refers to taxation that would be imposed by the king. The "**tenth**" mentioned here is reminiscent of our tithe today, however, this tax would be given to the king's use, and not to God, indicating a shift in allegiance. The redistribution of resources will come from the common people, and given to the ruling class. Again, this tenth comes from the people's seed, and their vineyards to be given to the king's officers and servants. This is an example of being forced to give to a greedy king, instead of willingly giving to their loving God.

1st Samuel 8:16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. ⁵This will be the king's forced labor. They will lose their freedom. The king will choose the best of the young men and women to serve him. ⁶This warning from Samuel underscores the shift from a theocracy, where God was the

² <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/1samuel/08.html>

³ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/1samuel/08.html>

⁴ https://biblehub.com/1_samuel/8-14.htm

⁵ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/1samuel/08.html>

⁶ https://biblehub.com/1_samuel/8-16.htm

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direct ruler, to a monarchy, where human kings would impose their will. The "**best cattle and donkeys**" indicates the economic impact of a monarchy. This diminishes personal wealth, but also affects the community's productivity and prosperity, for **it would be put to the king's work**.

1st Samuel 8:17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. Samuel keeps letting them know that they will no longer have any free range. There will also be taken from them a tenth; tithe of their sheep, and the people will be his servants. Another form of taxation used to support the king. Does this sound familiar in today's government and bringing back slavery? This serves as a caution against rejecting God's direct rule in favor of human leadership, which can lead to oppression and loss of liberty; a version of slavery to sin versus freedom in God.

1st Samuel 8:18 And 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. Samuel makes it very plain to the people, by telling them that they will have bitter tears because of this king they are demanding. The day when they're crying because of the king they chose, the Lord will not help them. God knows they would get into trouble and want to call upon the Lord to save them, but Samuel tells them He won't help them! This means that this is not what God had chosen for them, but this is what they had chosen!

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: 1 Sam.8:19-22

Nevertheless, the people refused to obey Samuel's voice of warning. They said "No", they want a king over them. Why? Because they want to be like all the other nations, and that their king would judge them, and fight for them in battle. Samuel heard all the words of the people and repeated them in the ears of the LORD! They still wanted an earthly king, and earthly strength instead of the Divine King, and Spiritual Strength. 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.*"

SUMMARY:

Samuel judged Israel well, but now he has gotten old, and he wanted to pass the torch to his sons to be judges over Israel: Joel was the firstborn and Abiah was his second son. However, they refused to walk in the manner of God. They walked in their own ways of being greedy after money, taking bribes, and corrupting justice. All the elders of Israel got together and went to Samuel in Ramah, telling him that he's gotten too old, and they wanted a king to rule; judge over them (**1 Sam.8:1-5**).

Samuel goes to God in prayer. God tells Samuel to listen to them; don't get angry because it wasn't about Samuel that the people rejected, it was God Himself that they had rejected. They



have done this from the day He brought them out of Egypt, and they are still forsaking Him today, by serving other gods. However, God says they are behaving in a similar fashion with Samuel. So, God tells Samuel to listen to them, but seriously warn them of his disapproval; show them the ways and rights of the king who will rule over them. Warn them of the consequences, so they would have full knowledge of their actions in not taking your advice (**1 Sam.8:6-9**).

Samuel was very specific in telling them all the words of the Lord. The king will literally take their sons and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen, and make them run before his chariots. Samuel carefully explained all the negative consequences of having a king. He continues to relay God's warnings to the people of wanting a king. The king will make some of them officers in charge of 1,000 soldiers, and others in charge of 50, and still others will have to farm the king's land, and harvest his crops, and make weapons of war, and parts for his chariots. The king will take their daughters to make perfume, be cooks and bakers for him. He will take their best fields, their best land where grapes and olives are grown to give to his officers and his servants. Then he will tax a tenth part of all their grain and grapes for his officers and servants. He will take their male and female servants, their best cows and donkeys, and use them for his own work. Again, another tax will be levied on them: a tenth of the total number of their sheep, and they themselves will become the king's slaves. And in that day when they shall have bitter tears because of this king they are demanding, the Lord will not hear them (**1 Sam.8:10-18**).