

1 Samuel 8 - 12

Israel Demands a King

Lesson 3

During his life, the Prophet/Judge Samuel led the people of Israel back into right covenant relationship with the Lord. They put away their idols and served God whole-heartedly. God gave them victory over their enemy the Philistines resulting in peace during Samuel's lifetime. After the big overview, the narrative circles back to give details on how Israel got her kings.

Israel Asks Samuel for a King - 8:1-22

1. Using 1 Samuel 8:1-3, when Samuel needed to share the burden as Israel's judge:
 - Whom did he appoint to help serve as judges?

 - How were these men described?
2. What was the reaction of the elders to Samuel's appointments? (vs. 8:4, 5)
3. Samuel was not pleased with their request and took his concerns to the Lord in prayer. How did the Lord answer Samuel's concern? (vs. 8:6-8)
4. Samuel was told to listen to the people's request but to also warn them of the consequences of their decision. In asking for a king, what did Samuel say they should expect regarding their:
 - Sons (vs. 8:10-12)

 - Daughters (vs. 8:13)

 - Crops (vs. 8:14, 15)

 - Work force (servants and animals) (vs. 8:16, 17a)

- How does the end of verse 17 sum up the true cost to the people by having a king?
5. What was Samuel's final, and strongest warning? (vs. 8:18)
 6. What was their real reason for wanting a king? (vs. 8:19, 20)
 7. But the people refused to listen to Samuel or heed God's warning. What did the Lord say to Samuel? (vs. 8:22)

Samuel Anoints a King - 9:1 - 10:27

8. The second main character in the book of Samuel is introduced in chapter 9. How was Saul, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, described? (vs. 9:2)
9. The Lord used donkeys to bring Saul and Samuel together. Saul and a servant were sent to find his family's missing donkeys. (1 Sam. 9:3-5) After several days of searching without success, Saul decided it was time to return home. But his servant disagreed. What was his suggestion to Saul? (vs. 9:6)
10. Saul was concerned that they didn't have anything to offer the man but the servant had what they would need. Saul agreed, and they headed into the town. A parenthesis added the title "man of God" was also called "seer." Saul asked some girls if the seer was in town. They replied yes, but hurry, as he was ready to offer sacrifices at the high place. (vs. 9:8-13) As Saul and his servant entered the town, they came face to face with Samuel. How had the Lord already prepared Samuel for this encounter? (vs. 9:14-17)
11. Not knowing who Samuel was, Saul asked him for directions to the seer's house. Samuel replied, "I am the seer." What did he tell Saul to do? (vs. 9:19)
12. Before Saul was able to say anything, what message did Samuel give that authenticated he was God's seer (prophet)? (vs. 9:20)

13. Unsure of what to make of this, Saul immediately gave reasons why Samuel must have the wrong man. What was Saul's excuse? (vs. 9:21)
14. Samuel ignored his being the "least" and gave him the place of honor at the sacrificial meal. Samuel gave instructions that Saul be given "the leg" (vs. 9:23, 24) which is also called the "thigh." What was the significance of this piece of meat that the people would have understood? (Ex. 29:27, 28)
15. The next morning Samuel was ready to send Saul on his way, but first he had a message from the Lord. Samuel sent the servant away then anointed Saul's head telling him that God had chosen him to be Israel's king. (1 Sam. 9:1) To authenticate God's choice, Samuel said that God would give Saul three signs on his way home. Using 1 Samuel 10, fill in the sign chart below:

Verse(s)	Where the sign would occur?	Who would be there?	What would happen?
2			
3 & 4			
5 & 6			

16. Once the Spirit of the Lord (Holy Spirit) came upon Saul he would be changed (transformed) into a new person. What other instructions was he given? (vs. 10:8)
17. As Saul turned to leave Samuel, what did the Lord do? (vs. 10:9)
18. Each of the three events took place just as Samuel had prophesied. When Saul arrived at his home, his uncle questioned him about his meeting with Samuel. Saul said that Samuel told him about the donkeys but what did he omit? (vs. 10:14 - 16)

Samuel called all Israel together at Mizpah and gave them a brief history lesson reminding them of God's faithfulness to Israel in spite of her rebellion against Him. By asking for a king, this generation was just like their forefathers. But God would give them their king and to determine which man was His choice, all the people were to pass by Samuel starting with each tribe.

19. Through a process of selection, who did God reveal was His choice: (vs. 10:20, 21)
 - Tribe:
 - Clan
 - Family
 - Individual for king
20. But when Samuel looked for Saul, he wasn't with his family. Where did the Lord say they would find Saul? (vs. 10:22)
21. Saul was reluctantly led before the people. When Samuel announced Saul was the Lord's choice, how did the people respond? (vs. 10:24b)
22. Samuel explained the role of God's king, wrote it down, then placed the scroll before the Lord, and everyone was sent home. Who went with Saul? (vs. 10:26)
23. But - - there were some troublemakers who questioned the choice of Saul. What did Saul do about these men? (vs. 10:27)

Saul's First Test as King - 1 Samuel 11:1-15

Not everyone was convinced that Saul was the right man to be their king or to lead them into battle. But the Holy Spirit was upon Saul and God would prove His choice to Israel.

24. Shortly after Saul had been declared king, the neighboring Ammonites came against Jabesh Gilead a city on the eastern border of the Jordan River. Rather than fight, the men of Jabesh asked for a treaty saying they would be servants of the Ammonites if they would make peace. How did the Ammonites answer their request? (vs. 11:2)

25. The Ammonite condition was not acceptable, so the men of Jabesh asked for seven days to send for help. This seemed reasonable as Israel had a new king and no army, so the Ammonites agreed. What happened when King Saul heard the news? (vs. 11:6)
26. Saul cut up a pair of oxen and sent the pieces throughout the land calling all men in Israel to battle. The oxen were to serve as an illustration of what would happen to the oxen of anyone who did not follow Saul and Samuel. What was the response of the people? (vs. 11:7)
27. How did the battle end for:
- The Ammonites? (vs. 11:11)
 - Those troublemakers? (vs. 10:27, 11:12, 13)
 - What did this do for Saul as king? (vs. 11: 14, 15)

Samuel's Farewell - 12:1-25

With Saul now firmly established as God's chosen leader, it was time for Samuel to give his farewell speech to the people of Israel.

28. He began by asking if he had wronged anyone during his time as judge. What was their answer? (vs. 12:4)

Samuel then gave another history lesson once again reminding them of God's faithfulness to Israel and their unfaithfulness to Him. They had followed that pattern of rebellion when they said, "we want a king to rule over us" —even though the LORD your God was your king." (vs. 12:12) Samuel also reminded them of the Covenant promises God made with Moses and Israel including the blessings and curses.

29. Just as in the day of their forefathers, Samuel reminded them that if they and their king obey the Lord, then all will go well. But if they do not, if they rebel, what should they expect? (vs. 12:15)

30. How did Samuel demonstrate the seriousness of what he was saying? (vs. 12:16 - 18)

31. When the people finally understood what they had done, what was their request of Samuel? (vs. 12:19)

32. Even though the people had done evil in the eyes of the Lord, Samuel said they were not to turn from the Lord - - rather they were to "serve the Lord with all your heart." (vs. 12:20) Why did Samuel say they should not be afraid of the Lord? (vs. 12:22)

33. What did Samuel promise that he would do for them? (vs. 12:23)

34. After encouraging the people once more to be faithful to the Lord with all their heart, what was his final warning that he left them with? (vs. 12:25)