"Give Us A King" 1 Samuel 8:1–22
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
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Background: Chapter 4: Israel loses 4,000 people, then another 30,000 men. The sons of Eli (Phinehas and Hophni) die; the Ark of the Covenant is taken; Eli dies; his daughter-in-law dies while giving birth to Ichabod.
Chapter 5: The Ark of the Covenant deals with Dagon (deity), tumors/plague.
Chapter 6: The Ark is returned.
Chapter 7: Israel turns their heart back to God.

Thought of the Passage: "A Believer Must Resist The Tendency To Replace God's Authority With Worldly Authority, Even When Desperate."

1. Failing Leadership	**1 Samuel 8:1–3**
2. Conforming to the World	**1 Samuel 8:4–5**
3. Spiritual Rejection	**1 Samuel 8:6–9**
4. A Loving Warning	**1 Samuel 8:10–18**
5. Stubborn Will	**1 Samuel 8:19–20**
6. God's Concession	**1 Samuel 8:21–22**

1. Failing Leadership – 1 Samuel 8:1–3

1 Samuel 8:1 when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel.
Installing our children in ministry is not always the best thing to do.

1 Samuel 8:2 his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah;
Joel: (Jo-el) *Hebrew.* "Jehovah is God," or "the Lord is God."
Abijah: (A-beh-jah) *"Jehovah is my father," or "my father is Jehovah."*

1 Samuel 8:3a His sons, however, did not walk in his ways,
[Samuel's father's way] **Judges 2:10**
1 Samuel 8:3b … but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.

Dishonest gain - greed: Love of riches.
Bribes: *"offering, giving, receiving, or requesting something of value"*
Perversion of Justice: "*Manipulating the law to do something contrary to what is just."* **Deuteronomy 16:19** "You shall not distort justice…"

2. Conforming to the World – 1 Samuel 8:4–5

1 Samuel 8:4 the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah;
1 Samuel 8:5a "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Current leadership is unstable, and it is doomed.

1 Samuel 8:5b … Now <u>appoint a king</u> for us to judge us like all the nations." They are not asking for a judge.
"I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you." (Judges 8:23).

They assess the situation correctly: Their solution is not as accurate: **<u>Give us a king</u> - "Like all the nations"** Let's conform to the culture.
Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world…"

Deuteronomy 17:14-15 God had already built in a concession for a king of His choosing down the line.

Holy: *Hebrew (Qadosh) "separated, set apart, consecrated for God and His purposes."*

1. A correct assessment does not guarantee the correct course of action.
2. The desire to conform to the world reveals inward spiritual insecurity.
3. God allows structure, yet He examines the motives.
4. The greatest threat is the inward pressure to conform to the world.

The request for a king revealed a deeper problem.

<u>3. Spiritual Rejection (1 Samuel 8:6–9)</u>

1 Samuel 8:6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "<u>Give us a king</u> to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. This is a spiritual response.

1 Samuel 8:7 for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.
In the New Testament, they would reject Jesus. "We have no king but Cesar." (John 19:15).

1 Samuel 8:8 Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.
There is an established historical pattern. **Exodus 16:8**

1 Samuel 8:9 you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them."
Love speaks truth even when it is unpleasant, even when it is difficult, uncomfortable, and unpopular.

God is so gracious to allow a warning before discipline. **Luke 10:16**

A pastor wants to help, guide, counsel, correct, but the flock refuses to listen. You would not do that to your attorney. (mechanic, doctor, etc.)

Symptom: Rejection of God's government.
Cause: Rejection of God's will.

4. A Loving Warning – 1 Samuel 8:10–18

1 Samuel 8:10 So Samuel spoke all the words of the LORD to the people - Samuel does not hold back. He speaks the whole truth.

1 Samuel 8:11 he will take your sons
1 Samuel 8:12 and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest
1 Samuel 8:13 He will also take your daughters
1 Samuel 8:14 He will take the best of your fields

1 Samuel 8:15 He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards - If you have not learned to tithe, you will learn.
1 Samuel 8:16 He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys

1 Samuel 8:17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants.

"Will take" abuse of authority (perverting justice). Sons (military), daughters (service), field (economy), animals (production), tithes from the flock (equipment)… **you yourselves will become his servants (freedom).**

Jesus came to give life abundantly, salvation: Living water, bread of life.
He came to serve, not to be served (Matthew 20:28).

We know it's wrong. We have been warned, and we don't care.
1 Samuel 18:18 Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

Some things happen because we caused them. "I did this to myself."

The king God had in mind: **Deuteronomy 17:16-17, Proverbs 29:2**
The human desire for an earthly king will enslave the people.
Human authority becomes oppressive when it replaces God's authority.

Godly government is: God's servant, A restraint on evil,
A means for civil order

5. Stubborn Will – 1 Samuel 8:19–20

1 Samuel 8:19a Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, - They know, but they refuse to submit to God's will.
1 Samuel 8:19b "No, but there shall be a king over us,
Come what may, we will deal with whatever happens.

1 Samuel 8:20 that we also may be like all the nations,
They want to be like all the nations. Perverse, wicked, idolaters, and godless.

"that our king may judge us…" We do not want God to rule over us."
Theocracy, *Greek "Theos" (God) and "Kratos" (Power).*

The majority may rule, but it does not mean the majority is right.
Matthew 27:20-23

6. God's Concession – 1 Samuel 8:21–22

1 Samuel 8:21 Now after Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the LORD'S hearing.

1 Samuel 8:22a The LORD said to Samuel, - The Lord listens to prayer and answers. **James 5:16**

1 Samuel 8:22b "Listen to their voice and appoint them a king."
God will respect their determination. **Romans 1:24-25, Psalms 106:15**

1 Samuel 8:22c "Go every man to his city."
This chapter ends on a sad note. Nothing to celebrate. We find silence and dispersion.

Israel will get the king they are asking for. And all the things God warned them about will also take place. When people reject God, it will always end badly.

It's easy to pass judgment on Israel for rejecting God. But our sin always looks much worse when someone else wears it.

How are you doing? What about you?
Have you rejected God's rule over your life?
Who is your king?
Is it God?
Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?

Application:

1. Not Everything That Seems Sensible Is Godly.
2. Do Not Conform To This World; Christians Must Change This World.
3. God Is King; Any Substitute Will Enslave You.
4. Christians Walk By Faith, Not By Sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)
5. Insisting In Getting What You Want May End Up Costing You Dearly.