

## 1 Samuel Lesson 10 Israel Demands a King

### Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

### Background:

**Kingship in the Near East in Samuel's time:** the kings of the pagan nations surrounding Israel were characterized by unlimited power and authority and were expected to maintain order and execute justice. They were in charge of caring for the temples and often had priestly duties. They were also the country's military leaders who provided protection and deliverance from the country's enemies. When they conquered another country, the king would acquire its land, wealth and inhabitants as slave labor.

**Beersheba:** a rather small city situated at the extreme southern boundary of Israel. The population of Beersheba at the time of Samuel was less than 200. The appointment of judges to this city would have been a minor appointment.

### Key Words:

**king :** Strong's H4428 "melek" a king or a royal

### Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22

1. According to 1 Samuel 8:1-3 who did Samuel appoint to be judges in Beersheba and why was this an unwise decision on the part of Samuel? In 1 Samuel 2:27-29 what other leader made the same mistake and also suffered the consequences?

2. How may have Samuel's unwise decision in 8:1-3 have contributed to the elder's request in 8:4-5? What was the real underlying reason given in 8:5, 7 and 20 for the elders request?

**Application:** What lessons about making wise decisions can we learn from both of these leaders?

3. When the elders were asking for a king, they were rejecting God as their true king. What were some of the ways that Yahweh served as their King?

Joshua 24:11-13

Exodus 6:7-8

Exodus 20:2-17

Deut. 28:8

**Application:** As a Christian, how can we give Yahweh his rightful place as King in our lives? What are some specific areas He wants to "reign" over in your life?

4. In 8:6 we learn that Samuel was displeased at their request and he sought the Lord with it. According to 8:7-9 what was the Lord's response to Samuel?

**Application:** The Lord reassured Samuel who must have felt the request was a rejection of him as leader. When we are rejected because of our faith, what are some of the ways the Lord reassures us?

5. In 8:10-18 Samuel warns them of the consequences of having a king like all the other nations. What were some of the consequences? How would an earthly king differ from Yahweh (note the repetition of the phrase "he will take")? According to verse 18 what would God's people forfeit?

**Application:** The people refused to listen to Samuel. They wanted a king they could trust in to fight their battles and judge them. What are some of the consequences of putting our trust in earthly rulers or the government?

