

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

I SAMUEL 8:1-11, 18-20

LESSON: ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING—July 19, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

1st Samuel 7:13 **So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.** It's always important to pray. Samuel, their man of God went to God and prayed (7:5, 8). He gathered all of Israel to Mizpeh. The Philistines were overcome by the hand of the Lord and their reign was over. They were not to come near or invade the coast of Israel again. God continued to bless the nation of Israel all the days of Samuel.

1st Samuel 7:14 **And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.** Even the cities in which the Philistines had taken were restored to Israel from Ekron to Gath, and the coasts were delivered out of the hands of the Philistines. And peace was gained with the Amorites, for they became allies.

1st Samuel 7:15 **And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.** Samuel was considered to be God's appointed leader. He judged Israel all the days of his life. (*Samuel is supposed to have lived one hundred years; he did not begin to judge Israel till he was about forty years of age; and if he was one hundred years of age when he died, he must have been a judge sixty years, and consequently filled that office during the whole of Saul's reign*).

1st Samuel 7:16 **And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.** Each year he traveled around, setting up his court first at Bethel, then at Gilgal, and then at Mizpah. This was about a 50 mile circuit that Samuel traveled as he instructed the people in the things of God and he judged the people of Israel at each of these places. ¹When he was at Bethel, the tribe of Ephraim, and all the northern parts of the country, could attend. When at Gilgal, the tribe of Benjamin, and those beyond Jordan might have easy access to him. And when at Mizpeh, he was within reach of Judah, Simeon, and Gad.

1st Samuel 7:17 **And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the Lord.** Ramah was the place of his ordinary abode, and there he held his court, for there he judged Israel. The altar at Ramah must have been permitted by God.

LESSON: I. REPREHENSIBLE JUDGES 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 was the firstborn and Abiah was his second son. ²"Joel" means Jehovah is God. "Abiah" means the LORD is my father.

1st Samuel 8:3 **And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted**

¹ http://bible.cc/1_samuel/7-16.htm

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

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Judgment. However, placing 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. REQUEST FOR A KING I SAMUEL 8:4-6

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. It says all 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 suggest 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. 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.

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.

III. RESPONSE FROM THE LORD I SAMUEL 8:7-11

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 is mad, not at Samuel but at the people. 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 him (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. And so they are behaving in a similar fashion with Samuel. They're 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 forgot 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 they would have full knowledge of their actions when they don't take your advice.

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

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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 (*Read 12-17*).

IV. REFUSAL OF THE PEOPLE 1 SAMUEL 8:18-20

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, telling them that they will have bitter tears because of this king they are demanding, but the Lord will not help them in that day. 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!

1st Samuel **8:19** **Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;**— Any way, the people refused to obey the warning of Samuel's voice; they refused to adhere; they said "No." When the heart is set on doing a thing, it will override all caution (*throw caution to the wind*) and the Spirit's leading. The matter is settled! They want a king over them.

1st Samuel **8:20** **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.** Why? Why do they want what they want? Because they want to be like all the other nations, and that their king would judge them and fight for them in battle. They want earthly strength instead of spiritual strength.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSES 21-22

Samuel told the Lord what the people said, and the Lord tells Samuel to do as they said and give them a king. Samuel agreed and sent the men home (to their 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 (**8:1-3**).

All the elders of Israel went to Samuel in Ramah, telling him that he's gotten too old, and they wanted a king to rule over them. Samuel goes to God in prayer (**8:4-6**).

God tells Samuel to listen to them don't get angry because it wasn't him (Samuel) that the people rejected, it was God Himself that they have 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. 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. 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 (**8:7-11**).

And in the day they have bitter tears because of this king they are demanding, the Lord will not help them. The people refused to obey the warning of Samuel's voice. 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. They want earthly strength instead of spiritual strength (**8:18-20**).

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