

# The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 8

## Demanding a King

Last time we saw great revival and victory for the Jews, plus the rise of Samuel as judge. This week we will see the state of affairs leading to the crowning of the first Jewish king.

### 19. Samuel's Sinful Sons - I Samuel 8:1-3

- It is worth noting that Samuel has fallen into the same situation as Eli before him: having less faithful sons who are not worthy to carry on the father's leadership. How could it have come to this? Perhaps Samuel learned his parenting skills from Eli and had the same result.
- Joel means "Jehovah is God" and Abiah means "The Lord is my father"
- Beersheba - "well of the oath", because of Abraham and Abimelech's treaty in Genesis 21:31. In Old Testament times it was the southernmost major Jewish settlement in the Promised Land.

### 20. The Demand for a King - I Samuel 8:4-9

- vs. 5 - the first part of this verse makes good sense, the latter does not. Be careful of modeling your intentions based on "all the nations" around you!
- vs. 6 - Samuel is not troubled by the remarks about his age or his sons, but that they want a king. Hitherto Israel had been a theocracy, ruled by God Himself. Now they seek to establish a monarchy, ruled by a man. Samuel is very sensitive to this rejection of God's plan for Israel.
- vs. 7-9 - Sometimes God gives us what we want when we really ought to be seeking what He wants!

### 21. Samuel's Warning - I Samuel 8:10-18

- vs. 11-13 - Samuel's first point is that a king will demand service from his subjects, in battle, enrichment, and comfort.
- vs. 12 - "to ear his ground" means to plow
- vs. 13 - "confectionaries" are those that mix and deal in spices
- vs. 14-17 - Samuel's second point it that a king will confiscate property and levy taxes
- vs. 14 - Not just the land itself, but the fruit of the land.
- vs. 15 - Here's my tax proposal: 10% flat tax. Good enough for God, good enough for government! Seriously, Samuel is pointing out that parts of the people's property will be taken and redistributed.
- vs. 17 - the last part of this verse is the crux of the matter: the will be subject to a king. They will have to obey and support the monarchy. They are willingly taking this yoke of bondage upon themselves.
- vs. 18 - strong stuff here. God says He will not hear their prayers. Why? HE TRIED TO WARN THEM! Now its on their own heads!

## **22. God Grants the Request for a King - I Samuel 8:19-22**

- Not only do the people refuse to listen to Samuel, they are also refusing to listen to God!
- vs. 20 - sums up the people's motives: they want to be like their neighbors, they want a different form of a judiciary, they want high profile leadership, and they wanted military generalship. All four of these go against how God had dealt with Israel ever since they came out of Egypt.
- vs. 21 - great lesson here. As the song says, "take it to the Lord in prayer"!