

POWER HOUR

6/28/2026

Lesson Text:
1 Samuel 8:1-18

Related Scriptures:
John 15:18-25; Proverbs 1:20-33;
Deuteronomy 17:14-20; &
1 Kings 10:26-11:8; 21:1-16

“GOD GRANTS ISRAEL A KING”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: “Do everything they say to you,” the Lord replied, “for they are rejecting me, not you. They don’t want me to be their king any longer.

1 Samuel 8:7 NLT

Time: about 1043 B.C.

Place: Ramah

1 Samuel 8:1-18 NLT

¹ As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. ² Joel and Abijah, his oldest sons, held court in Beersheba. ³ But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice. ⁴ Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. ⁵ “Look,” they told him, “you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.” ⁶ Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the Lord for guidance. ⁷ “Do everything they say to you,” the Lord replied, “for they are rejecting me, not you. They don’t want me to be their king any longer. ⁸ Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment. ⁹ Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them.” Samuel Warns against a Kingdom ¹⁰ So Samuel passed on the Lord’s warning to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ “This is how a king will reign over you,” Samuel said. “The king will draft your sons and assign them to his chariots and his charioteers, making them run before his chariots. ¹² Some will be generals and captains in his army, some will be forced to plow in his fields and harvest his crops, and some will make his weapons and chariot equipment. ¹³ The king will take your daughters from you and force them to cook and bake and

make perfumes for him. ¹⁴ He will take away the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his own officials. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and your grape harvest and distribute it among his officers and attendants. ¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves and demand the finest of your cattle and donkeys for his own use. ¹⁷ He will demand a tenth of your flocks, and you will be his slaves. ¹⁸ When that day comes, you will beg for relief from this king you are demanding, but then the Lord will not help you."

INTRODUCTION

As the history of the Israelites progressed, they became more established as a nation. At first they were simply wanderers. Settling in the Promised Land made them more like a nation under the guidance of judges.

These judges were more like military leaders than anything else. God raised them up to deliver His people when they sinned, and their enemies oppressed them. Samuel who functioned as a prophet and judge, was the last of the judges (he seems to have blundered in making his sons judges over Israel.

And the way the nation responded was also flawed. Specifically, their motivation for wanting to have a king. This was a problem!

Additional Scripture Readings

Expectations for Israelite Kings. Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

King Solomon Acquires Much Wealth. 1 Kings 4:20-28.

King Solomon Takes Many Wives. 1 Kings 10:26—11:8.

King Ahab Takes a Vineyard. 1 Kings 21:1-16.

The Result of Not Heeding Wisdom. Proverbs 1:20-33.

Hated as Jesus Was Hated. John 15:18-25.

A King Like the Nations' Kings. 1 Samuel 8:1-18.

1. The people ask for a king (1 Samuel 8:1-5). As Samuel neared the end of his life, it was natural for the Israelites to look for his successor. However, Samuel's two sons, whom he had appointed as judges in his stead, were ungodly. Because of this, the elders of Israel approached Samuel and requested a king to judge them, a king

like those of the other nations.

The sinfulness of the Israelites' request did not lie in their desire for a king in general. A good, godly king would have advanced the nation of Israel and drawn them closer to the true King. But the Israelites wanted a king like the nations—visible, one whom they could control or influence.

2. God grants the people a king (1 Samuel 8:6-9). Although the people had rejected Samuel, that was not the main problem. Instead, they had rejected God, who had guided their fathers and rescued them from Egypt. This was no new attitude—the people had been rejecting God consistently, even in the land of Egypt, worshipping false gods and bringing those idols along with them in the wilderness.

Despite the Israelites' lack of trust, God showed His mercy to them again, and He told Samuel to grant their request. This would be an act of mercy and judgment: mercy because God was still guiding His people, and judgment because the kings would act in worldly ways to harm the people out of self-interest.

3. Samuel warns the people about the king (1 Samuel 8:10-18). Having conceded the request for a king, God told Samuel to warn the people about what would happen. Instead of being only under the just leadership of the rightful King, the people would experience injustice just like the subjects of kings in other nations. The kings of Israel would take the best of the people for their service, would exact heavy taxes in various forms, and would subject the people to slavery.

Sin destroyed the kings of Israel and the Israelites (1 Samuel 12:25), but God did not leave them to suffer under sinful human kings but used the kingship to point to His Son, Jesus, the true King (Revelation 5:5). It is to Him we must submit, and in Him we find eternal mercy.

PRACTICAL POINTS

Godly parents do not guarantee godly children (1 Samuel 8:1-3).

Someone can rightly identify a problem or even a solution but have bad motives (vs.4-5).

When we are frustrated, we should take our frustrations to God (vs. 6).

People may reject us if we faithfully represent God (vss. 7-9).

We must represent God even to those who will not listen (vs. 10).

Ungodly leadership is marked by taking, not serving (vss. 11-17)

God's people sometimes follow sinful paths that hinder their prayers

(1 Samuel 8:18 and Isaiah 59:1-2)

CONCLUSION

By recounting the Israelites' history, Joshua reminded them of their own sin in contrast to God's persistent mercy. This reminder led them to the choice to serve false gods or to serve the only Living God.

Although we are not a part of the nation of Israel under Joshua, the same choice applies to us today. Are we going to trust in our own strength and try to take control of our lives, turning ourselves into our own idol, or are we going to remember God's faithfulness to us in our own lives, along with His faithfulness in the history of salvation?

Next week, despite our faithlessness, God is always faithful "**God Gathers All Nations. Jeremiah 3:11-20.** *Union Gospel Press, LifeStone*