

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
LESSON 5**

**LIKE ALL THE NATIONS
1 SAMUEL 8
WEEK OF OCTOBER 11 – OCTOBER 16**

First Samuel 8 is a pivotal point in redemptive history. Samuel experiences the rejection by his nation of the benevolent rule of Yahweh as King. The people of Israel look all around them and desire above all else to be like all the nations. They want a champion, a king, who will fight their battles for them and provide them with safety and security. They chose to be ruled by a human monarch. Samuel warns them of the high price the nation will pay for this misplaced trust in man who cannot save.

God grants the Israelites' request for a human monarch. God will use the sinfulness, frailty and failing of the many human kings who will rule over Israel to reveal the need for the perfect benevolent King, the Lord Jesus Christ. That perfect benevolent king is promised in the Davidic Covenant of **2 Samuel 7:12-16**.

As you study this chapter, consider the ways you trust in other men, your own resources or man-made security rather than trust in God and His unfailing promises.

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-6 Elders' Request – Samuel's Petition

1. In **verses 1-3** who are the people of Israel looking to for leadership? How is Samuel's situation similar to Eli's? What does this teach us about human leaders?
2. In **verses 4 and 5**, what are the reasons the elders give for their request of Samuel to appoint a king? What was the evil motive for the request of a king? See **verse 20** also to describe the motive.
3. From **verse 6**, how does Samuel respond to the request? What personal lesson can we learn from Samuel's response?

Read 1 Samuel 8:7-9 Yahweh's Answer to Samuel

4. How did God answer Samuel's prayer in **verse 6**?
5. From **verse 8**, how was the request for a king similar to the Israelites' long history of the sin of idolatry?
6. In **verse 9**, what command did Yahweh give to Samuel?

Read 1 Samuel 8:10-18 Samuel's "Full Disclosure" of The Ways of a King

7. What is the repeated phrase in this section that describes the "custom" and ways of the human monarch the nation requested?
8. **Verses 10-18** describe the harsh and exacting levy imposed by the monarch, the king. In **verse 17**, what is the ultimate condition of those ruled by this human monarch?
9. What is the climax of the warning in **verse 18**?

Read 1 Samuel 8:19-22 Refusal of Warning - Repeated Request For Human Substitute for the True King

10. In **verse 20**, what did the Israelites again reveal about their rationale for the request for a king?
11. From **1 Sam. 7:10**, who fought the battle against the Philistines?
12. Read **Ps.118:8-9** and **Ps.146:3**. How do these passages show the foolishness of the Israelites in their request for a king?

Their help now was not in the strong name of Yahweh but in a new form of government. It is not monarchy but trust in monarchy that is the villain. 1 Samuel Looking on the Heart, Dale Ralph Davis, pg 85

13. How does **chapter 8** conclude?

"Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of Yahweh, our God." Psalm 20: 7

Concluding Applications:

In what ways do you reject God's instruction and choose to be conformed to the world around you so you "just fit in better".

In what ways do you trust in the support of and approval of man rather than choosing to obey the Lord?

Are there ways in which you are placing more trust in human government than trusting in the Lord?