



DAILY STUDY

Lesson 27: The People Demand a King

Passage: Read 1 Samuel 8 - 10

Verse: 1 Samuel 8:7

DAY 1 LET'S BEGIN:

1. How were Samuel's sons like Eli's sons? (1 Sm. 8:3; 2:12)
2. Why did the people say they wanted a king? (8:5-6)
3. What are at least five warnings that God told Samuel to tell to the people? (8:10-17)
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
4. How did the people respond to the warnings? (8:19)
5. What did God tell Samuel to do in 8:22?

DAY 2 FIND the FACTS:

1. How does 1 Samuel 9:2 describe Saul?
2. Read the story about Saul and the donkeys in 1 Samuel 9:3-14. Check here when you have completed the reading. ___
3. What did God tell Samuel about Saul according to 1 Samuel 9:17?
4. How did Saul describe himself? (9:21)
5. What did Samuel do in 1 Samuel 10:1?
6. What are some things that Samuel told Saul would happen as he went home? (10:2-6)
7. Why did Samuel say these things would happen? (10:7)

DAY 3 VERSE ANALYSIS: Please fill in the missing words.

1 Samuel 8:7

And the LORD said unto Samuel, _____ unto the voice of the _____ in all that they say unto thee, for they have not rejected thee, but they have _____ me that I should not reign _____.

1. When Samuel talked with the LORD, what did the LORD say about the people?
2. What does the word "rejected" mean to you?

PASSAGE SUMMARY

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When Samuel became old, he appointed his sons, Joel and Abiah, as judges over Israel, but they did not walk in the ways of Samuel. They pursued money, took bribes and turned away from judgment. So all the elders of **Israel** approached Samuel at Ramah and requested that he appoint them a king like all the other nations. Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD told Samuel to do as the people requested. He pointed out that they were not rejecting Samuel; they were rejecting God Himself. The people were doing what they had always done since leaving Egypt. They were still forsaking God and serving other gods. The LORD God told Samuel to warn the people about a king.

So Samuel advised the people that a king would use their sons for his chariots and for providing equipment for war. They would plow and reap his harvest, and he would use their daughters to work for him. A king would **take** the best of their fields for his servants and a tenth of their produce. He would take servants and donkeys for his work along with a tenth of their flocks. The people would even become his servants. Samuel warned that they would some day cry out because of a king; however, the LORD would not listen to them then. No matter what Samuel said, the people wanted a king to fight their battles for them. Samuel returned to the LORD with their response. The LORD again told Samuel to do as they asked and appoint them a king. Samuel sent the elders home.

Meanwhile, a Benjaminite man named Kish had sent his tall, handsome son, Saul, to find some missing donkeys. He had gone all the way to Zuph before he suggested they return home so his father would not begin to worry. The servant suggested they visit the seer (prophet) whose words were always proven true to find out about their donkeys. As

they entered the city, Samuel, the seer, was coming out.

The day before God had told Samuel about a Benjamite looking for his donkeys. He was to anoint him as their captain, and he would deliver the people from the Philistines. When Samuel saw **Saul** approaching, the LORD told Samuel that Saul was the one to **reign (rule)** over His people. Therefore, when Saul approached Samuel, he invited Saul to join him on the way to the mountain and explained that he would tell him what he wanted to know the following day. Samuel revealed that the donkeys had been found.

Saul was surprised at the special treatment that night saying that he was of the smallest family of the smallest **tribe**, the tribe of Benjamin. The next day Samuel got Saul up about daybreak to return to the city. Soon Samuel had Saul send his servant ahead in order to give Saul a message. Samuel told Saul that the LORD had chosen him to be the captain over his people as he poured oil on his head to anoint him. Then Samuel revealed a number of details about that day, and the Spirit of the LORD came upon Saul mightily, and everything happened just as Samuel predicted. The people even took note of what was happening. Saul's uncle questioned him about his visit with Samuel, and Saul told him about the donkeys but not about the kingdom.

Later Samuel called the people together at Mizpeh and cast lots to see who the LORD had chosen. The lot fell on Saul who was found hiding behind the stuff (baggage). The people shouted, "God save the **king**." Samuel wrote down the ordinances of the kingdom, laid it before the LORD and sent the people home. Then Samuel returned home, too.



QUESTIONS: Why did the people want a king? Who was really their king?
What is important to you about this story?
What have you learned about God from this passage?

PASSAGE THOUGHTS

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It appears that Samuel did not do such a good job of raising his sons. He had learned some things from his parents when he was young, but he did not learn enough to thoroughly pass it on to his sons. He certainly did not have a good example to follow with Eli. In later years Samuel's home was described as being in Ramah, and he is described as going from place to place. His parents were from Ramah, and that is where the family land would have been. Perhaps Samuel's family was not with him constantly.

Whatever the case everything was in God's plan. He knew the people would reject Him, and He planned for Samuel to anoint a king. The first king was to be one of the people's choice to give them a picture of where their choices would lead them. They were looking for a way to be like the nations around them instead of looking for a way to be more like God.

God directed Samuel and Saul clearly and individually. Saul was guided through circumstances, and Samuel was guided by God's direct words. Samuel clearly knew what was going to happen. Saul soon heard what was going to happen and was both surprised and intimidated.

When Saul said he was from the smallest tribe, he was right. Benjamin was the youngest of Jacob's sons and his tribe was only slightly larger than the smallest tribe at the time of the census in Numbers. When Samuel served a meal at the top of the mountain, he gave Saul a choice morsel of meat which was customary treatment for an honored guest. Clearly Saul would have been surprised at the treatment he was receiving. He had never met someone like Samuel before and was certainly receiving honorary treatment.

The next day Samuel anointed Saul privately. The events which Samuel said would happen that day occurred just as he described and the people were soon alerted that something peculiar was happening. Saul did not say anything to his family about the kingdom when he returned home. Perhaps he thought it was just a dream or a mistake.

Later Samuel used the system of choosing lots to determine who would be king. Earlier God had used this same method to determine how the land would be divided among the tribes when they were entering and claiming the promised land. The lots may have seemed to be by chance, but they were certainly arranged by God. As Samuel had said, Saul was to be Israel's king even though he thought he could avoid it by hiding. Most everyone was ready for Saul to be king, but there were a few who did not agree.

What are you doing to raise up those God has given you so that they will be devoted to Him? Are you too busy with other things, even good things, to teach them to fear and honor God with their whole lives? What are some ways God is working in your life recently? What are some unusual things you have seen God do? Review your weekly activities and your possessions. What does your family's life style and possessions say about your priorities? How is your family looking for ways to be more like God rather than more like the world? How are you trying to hide from what God has appointed you to do?

PRAYER: *Father, help us trust You completely enough to come to You in the good as well as the tough times. Help us focus on You rather than on the world around us.*
