



“Open Church – Open Bible”

Clabon Bogan Jr. – Interim Pastor



Sunday Church School

July 12, 2020

“Samuel’s Leadership Brings Victory”— I Sam. 8:1-11; 18-20

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“1 Sam. 8:1-11; 18-20”

¹ Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

² The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; *they* were judges in Beersheba.

³ But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,

⁵ and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways.

Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us."

So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

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“1 Sam. 8:1-11; 18-20”

⁸ According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods--so they are doing to you also.

⁹ Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

¹⁰ So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king.

¹¹ And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint *them* for his own chariots and *to be* his horsemen, and *some* will run before his chariots.

18 And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."

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“1 Sam. 8:1-11; 18-20”

¹⁹Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us,
²⁰that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

Today's world has many forms of government: (a) **monarchy** (b) **democracy** (c) **Dictatorship** (d) **oligarchy** [*rule by a few*] and (e) **republic** – just to name a few.

As far as the ancient world was concerned, the very idea of a democratic government was rare; as most nations were ruled by a single person, a king or queen, who was mostly an absolute ruler and answerable to no one.

- In short, the ruler made the rules!

From the beginning, Israel was to be a theocracy, a nation ruled by God and governed by the commandments He gave on Mount Sinai.



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“Samuel’s Leadership Brings Victory”



Although God knew Israel would ask for a king (**Deut. 17:14-20**), they were still supposed to be governed by God and His Word.

LESSON OUTLINE:

- I. REPREHENSIBLE JUDGES —I Sam. 8:1-3**
- II. REQUEST FOR A KING —I Sam. 8:4-6**
- III. RESPONSE FROM THE LORD —I Sam. 8:7-11**
- IV. REFUSAL OF THE PEOPLE —I Sam. 8:18-20**
- I. REPREHENSIBLE JUDGES —I Sam. 8:1-3**

Samuel is a figure who, in the Biblical narrative, plays a key role in the transition from the period of the **biblical judges** to the **institution of kingdom rule**; and again in the transition from Saul to David.



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“Samuel’s Leadership Brings Victory”



He is venerated as a **prophet** by Jews, Christians, and Muslims; even though he performed in the roles of **seer** (*perceiver of hidden knowledge*), **priest**, **judge**, **prophet** (*teacher of known truth*).

His greatest distinction was his role in the establishment of the monarchy in Israel and **military leader**.

You may recall that Samuel’s mentor, Eli, failed to restrain his sons, and they suffered God’s judgment because of their sins (2:12-17, 22-25; 3:11-14).

- In this regard, Samuel did not have a very good role model
- By the time he was an old man, Samuel had no one to turn his leadership over to.

In our lesson, several years had gone by since Israel experienced a time of revival under the leadership of Samuel.

The people had noticed that the nations around them had kings to lead them, and they started to want that for themselves.



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Why couldn’t Israel be like everyone else?

The fires of revival had seemingly been extinguished as the people were no longer satisfied with having God as their King.

- Samuel was a beloved figure in Israel, but the people were growing restless to replace him.

At this point in the narrative, Samuel was old, although we are not sure how old and perhaps feeling that he didn’t have a lot of time left, he decided to appoint his sons as judges.

Whether he was not thinking clearly because of his advanced age or simply could not see what his own sons were really like, he made a mistake by giving them positions of power.

Just because a person has great ability or has lived a godly life does not mean his own children will follow in his footsteps.

- To be sure, righteous living has a positive effect on our children, but it is no guarantee they will emulate our behavior.



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Since Beer-sheba was the southernmost city in Israel, it has even been suggested that Samuel placed them in this faraway place because he knew of their evil proclivity and this location kept them far from most of the Israelites.

We know simply sending someone to another city does not change who the person is; it may even make matters worse if there are more temptations there

- **Sinful service (I Sam. 8:3)** It has been said that “Money talks” and sadly, this is true in many situations, even in the legal system.
- To this day there are people in power who can be bought, making it almost impossible for a poor person to receive any justice whatsoever.
- The sons of Samuel **“turned aside after lucre,”** meaning they took money to make judgments in favor of the highest bidder.
- They “perverted judgment [justice]” for their own benefit – knowing it was wrong
- They were in clear violation of the Mosaic law (Deut. 16:18-20).



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“Samuel’s Leadership Brings Victory”



II. REQUEST FOR A KING (v 4-6)

The actions of Samuel’s sons led to widespread discontent and without Samuel’s knowledge, the elders (tribal leaders) of Israel decided they had had enough and wanted something done about the situation.

- “All the elders of Israel” were in unanimous agreement (v 4), and their goal was clear.
- They came to Samuel’s base of operation in Ramah, although he traveled on a circuit judging Israel throughout his life (7:15-17).
- The elders pointed out two irrefutable facts to Samuel: (1) he was old, and (2) his sons were evil.
- Although none of us like to admit it, age not only robs us of our physical prowess, but it may also affect our ability to make good decisions.
- To what degree Samuel’s age affected his judicial ability is unknown.
- The larger issue was Samuel’s sons and since Samuel had a great deal of influence in Israel, the elders foresaw disastrous consequences if the sons were unchecked.



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“Samuel’s Leadership Brings Victory”



Rather than acquiescing to the desires of Israel’s leaders, Samuel was “displeased”; literally, their request was **“evil in his eyes.”**

Obviously, there are times when it is necessary to replace people, but **how this is done makes a world of difference** to the one being replaced.

Sadly, many good and godly pastors have been removed because a few disgruntled church members decided it was time for them to leave.

To his credit, Samuel took all this to the Lord, which is precisely what we should do when we find ourselves in a similar situation.

Those who live in a democracy might give—or get—the impression that “majority rule” is always right, but it is not!

The majority of the Hebrew spies thought Canaan was unconquerable, but they were wrong (Num. 13:1—14:10).

- Polls may notify what people are thinking, but they do not determine right or wrong



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III. RESPONSE FROM THE LORD (V 7-11)

If Samuel was hoping the Lord was going to intervene (v 7) and possibly change the minds of Israel’s leaders, he was greatly disappointed.

- The Lord, in fact, told Samuel to “hearken,” to the people and grant their request.
- Apparently, Samuel assumed that Israel’s request was a personal rejection of him and his leadership. **Rather, it was a rejection of God as their King.**
- It was a repudiation of His laws given to govern this nation.
- We should look past ourselves to determine if the action of people is against God

In V 8, As the Lord spoke to Samuel, and reminded him that things had not changed in hundreds of years during the chastisement during the time of the Judges.

After being delivered from Egyptian bondage, Israel should have been so grateful that their devotion and dedication to the Lord would have been evident, but it was not.

- Instead, they forsook the Lord and worshipped other gods.
- This rejection of God’s rule is mirrored in the rejection of Christ’s spiritual



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“Samuel’s Leadership Brings Victory”



Although the Lord was going to permit Israel to have a king, He wanted them to know what they were getting into.

He told Samuel to “protest solemnly unto them” (v 9-11) as a warning to them of the consequences of their decision.

Samuel dutifully shared all that the Lord told him concerning their request for a king and what it would mean for them.

Before making important decisions, and deciding purely on our desires, it behooves us to weigh the pros and cons.

Just because we are believers does not mean we will always make good, sensible decisions (Jas. 4:13-17).

Contrary to the popular belief that things would be better without Samuel’s sons, history proved that they got worse.



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IV. REFUSAL OF THE PEOPLE (V 18-20)

- **V 18** Because of the previously mentioned realities of a monarchy, Samuel warned the people that a day was coming when they would realize the mistake of asking for a king.
- At that time, they would appeal to the Lord, but it would be futile to do so.
- As Samuel said, “The Lord will not hear you in that day.”
- Similarly, we need to be careful what we ask and pray for; the Lord might just give us our request, and it may be something we later regret.
- After all, not all prayers are offered in a right spirit, nor are they all offered for the right things. James 4:3 says, “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss.”
- **V 19-20** In spite of the warnings, “the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel.”



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“Samuel’s Leadership Brings Victory”

- Copying the nations around them was just going to lead them deeper into sin.
- For both individual Christians and churches, a desire to be like the surrounding culture is disastrous.
- Sadly, there are many believers who are indistinguishable from unbelievers regarding their moral viewpoints.
- The rationale behind this is if we are going to win the world, we must make people comfortable and use culturally relevant methods to attract them.
- It would actually be better to make people uncomfortable; otherwise they will see no need for repentance.
- The church must be in the world, but the world must never be in the church!
- The elders of Israel assumed that the yet-to-be-chosen king would “judge” (1 Sam. 8:20) them as a just ruler



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“Lessons from the Study”



1. What did Samuel do that caused concern in Israel?
2. What was so bad about Samuel’s sons?
3. What did the elders of Israel decide to do about Samuel’s sons?
4. What did the elders want Samuel to do?
5. Who had the people of Israel really rejected?
6. What consequences did Samuel outline for the nation if they were given a king?
7. Why would the people one day cry out to God, and what would happen when they prayed?



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“OBJECTIVE TEACHING POINTS”



- A. It is dangerous for the Church to try and emulate the world
 - Fitting in with the world is impossible for true disciples of Jesus

- B. The desire for popularity should never overtake our zeal for the Lord

- C. Christians must embrace God’s call to be different from the world and shine like lights for Him.

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