### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 8

1Well, after SamuEl had grown old, he appointed his sons to be judges in IsraEl. 2The firstborn was JoEl and the second was AbiJah. They each served as judges in BeerSheba.  
  
3However, they weren’t like [SamuEl], because they accepted contributions and took bribes, so they didn’t [always] make righteous decisions. 4As a result, the men of IsraEl got together and went to SamuEl at RamAh and said:  
  
 5‘Look, you’re getting old and your sons aren’t doing things the way that you did them! So, appoint a king to settle matters between us, like the rest of the nations have.’  
  
6However, SamuEl viewed this as something wicked when they said, ‘Appoint a king to settle matters between us.’ So he prayed to Jehovah.  
  
7And Jehovah replied:  
  
 ‘Listen to the voice of the people and do all that they’re asking.  
  
 ‘For they aren’t treating you with contempt, 8they’re just doing the same things they’ve been doing to Me since the day that I led them out of Egypt... And as they’ve abandoned Me to serve other gods; that’s how they’re treating you now.  
  
 9‘So, do whatever they ask. However, explain what will happen when you appoint a king to rule over them.’  
  
10Well, SamuEl did tell them everything that Jehovah said about kings, saying:  
  
 11‘This is what you can expect from the kings who’ll rule over you:  
  
 • They’ll take your sons and mount them on chariots or appoint them as cavalry to ride in front of their chariots.  
  
 • 12Then they’ll appoint commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and [your sons] will have to plow and harvest their fields and pick their grapes before they send them to war on chariots.  
  
 • 13They’ll also take your daughters to serve as perfume makers, cooks, and bakers.  
  
 • 14They’ll take the best food from your fields, vineyards, and olive groves to feed their servants.  
  
 • 15Then they’ll claim 1/10th of your grain and grapes for their eunuchs and servants.  
  
 • 16They’ll take the best of your male and female slaves, as well as your burros… 1/10th of everything that you own!  
  
 • 17They’ll take 1/10th of your flocks.  
  
 ‘And you’ll then be their servants!  
  
 18‘Also, the day will come when you’ll call out to the king whom you’ll choose for yourselves, and he won’t pay any attention to Jehovah.’  
  
19Well, the people didn’t want to listen to what SamuEl was saying, so they told him:  
  
 ‘We want you to appoint a king over us 20just like all the other nations have! Someone who can settle matters between us, lead us, and wage our wars.’  
  
21Then after SamuEl heard what the people were saying, he spoke to them before Jehovah and said:  
  
 22‘Jehovah told me to listen to whatever you have to say and to appoint a king over you.  
  
 ‘So now, each of you should return to your cities.’