



Israel's First King: The Desire to be like other Nations (1 Sam 8 - 10)

Questions: Week Six

Israel Asks for a King - [1 Samuel 8:1-22](#)¹

Topics: [Age](#), [Anger](#), [Answers](#), [Arguments](#), [Authority](#), [Backslide](#), [Children](#), [Choices](#), [Comparisons](#), [Complaining](#), [Consequences](#), [Desires](#), [Disagreements](#), [Disobedience](#), [Ego](#), [Envy](#), [Family](#), [Foolishness](#), [Forsake](#), [Freedom](#), [God's Will](#), [Government](#), [Habits](#), [Hardheartedness](#), [Humanness](#), [Idolatry](#), [Instructions](#), [Leadership](#), [Materialism](#), [Parents](#), [Priorities](#), [Rebellion](#), [Rejection](#), [Representatives](#), [Stubbornness](#)

Open It

1. *What example can you recall, from your experience or from the media, of someone who chose to ignore good advice?
2. What sort of stubbornness do you find particularly maddening in other people?
3. What do you think is the appeal of royalty for those nations that have the institution?

Explore It

4. Whom did Samuel intend to succeed him when he died? ([8:1](#))
5. In what ways did Samuel's sons differ from their father? ([8:3](#))
6. *What request by the elders of Israel angered Samuel in his old age? ([8:4-6](#))
7. *What were some of the reasons that the Israelites wanted a king rather than a priest/judge? ([8:5](#))
8. *How did God help Samuel put the people's request in perspective? ([8:7](#))
9. What was God's overview of Israel throughout its history? ([8:8](#))
10. God commanded Samuel to listen to the people's request, but what else was he to do? ([8:9](#))
11. What were some of Samuel's predictions about what life would be like for the king's new subjects? ([8:10-17](#))
12. According to Samuel's prophecy, how would God respond if they found that they did not like the king? ([8:18](#))
13. How were the people affected by Samuel's warnings? ([8:19](#))

1. , *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Israel Asks for a King - 1 Samuel 8:1-22".

14. What were the primary reasons that having a king appealed to the people of Israel? ([8:20](#))
15. When Samuel brought the reaction of Israel before God, what did God command him? ([8:21-22](#))
16. What did the delegation of elders do at the end of the interchange with Samuel? ([8:22](#))

Get It

17. How can Samuel's predicament help us to keep perspective when we are rejected because of our stand for Christ?
18. *Why did God include the request for a king in the same category with idolatry?
19. Why was it hard for the Israelites to see the negative side of the Israelites' request?
20. In what way was Israel more "free" than other nations before it was ruled by a king?
21. *In what way is the desire to be like the people around us more of a hindrance than a help to our spiritual lives?
22. In what way is your life not "like other people" and yet it is good because God has ordained it?

Apply It

23. *Before you make requests of God this week, how could you go about seeking His perspective on what is best for you?
24. How can you resolve to think about the next words of warning you receive from a Christian brother or sister?

Samuel Anoints Saul - [1 Samuel 9:1-10:8](#)²

Topics: [Advice](#), [Authority](#), [Blessing](#), [Direction](#), [Doubt](#), [Family](#), [Gifts](#), [Giving Up](#), [God's Will](#), [Heart](#), [Honor](#), [Hospitality](#), [Humility](#), [Instructions](#), [Invitation](#), [Limitations](#), [Obedience](#), [Possessions](#), [Preparation](#), [Prophecy](#), [Questions](#), [Reputation](#), [Sacrifice](#), [Timing](#), [Wisdom](#)

Open It

1. *How would you assess your chances of suddenly being singled out for a prestigious national position?
2. Why are we awed when a person is able to predict the future with accuracy?
3. If you have ever been prayed over individually for a blessing, what was the experience like for you?

Explore It

4. What unique physical characteristics set Saul apart from his peers? ([9:2](#))
5. How did Saul and his servant come to be traveling through the land? ([9:3](#))
6. Why was Saul inclined to go home without the donkeys? ([9:5](#))
7. When Saul and the servant disagreed about the next step of the search, whose opinion prevailed? ([9:6](#))
8. Why did the servant want to consult with the prophet before heading home? ([9:6](#))
9. Who were the first people to give Saul directions to help him find the "man of God"? ([9:11](#))
10. *Why was Samuel not taken by surprise when Saul and his servant arrived in the town where the prophet was staying? ([9:15-16](#))
11. *For what special mission had God singled out Saul? ([9:16](#))
12. What had God commanded Samuel just the day before Saul's arrival? ([9:16](#))
13. What information and what honors did the prophet have waiting for Saul when they first met? ([9:19-20](#))
14. *What objection did Saul raise when he first heard Samuel's prophecy? ([9:21](#))
15. When Samuel escorted Saul on his way back home, why did he send the servant on ahead? ([9:27](#))
16. What important symbolic action accompanied Samuel's pronouncement over Saul? ([10:1](#))

2. , *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Samuel Anoints Saul - 1 Samuel 9:1-10:8".

17. What three signs did Samuel predict as proof that Saul's anointing was truly from God? ([10:2-6](#))
18. What specific instructions were given to Saul before he parted company with the prophet? ([10:8](#))

Get It

19. *In what ways did God use His faithful servant, Samuel, to answer the prayers of His people?
20. What might be your reaction if you had experiences similar to Saul's while performing a mundane task?
21. God acted to "change" Saul, but what were some natural aspects of his character that were previously unsuited to kingship?
22. What are some of your thoughts and feelings when you are the recipient of an award or honor?
23. *How does it make you feel to know that God uses us in spite of our weaknesses and natural limitations?
24. Why would the fulfillment of three specific signs help Saul believe that God was at work?

Apply It

25. What practical signs of esteem can you prepare in advance this week for someone who has an important task?
26. *What specific new habit of listening can you adopt to help you be ready when God wants to use you to answer someone's prayer?

Saul Made King - [1 Samuel 10:9-27](#)³

Topics: [Affirmation](#), [Answers](#), [Appearance](#), [Call](#), [Change](#), [Complaining](#), [Criticism](#), [Disobedience](#), [Doubt](#), [Government](#), [Hiding](#), [History](#), [Instructions](#), [Opinions](#), [People](#), [Popularity](#), [Prophecy](#), [Questions](#), [Rules](#), [Silence](#), [Stress](#), [Weaknesses](#)

Open It

1. *When was the first time you wished you could "crawl into a hole" rather than make an appearance or presentation in public?
2. In what circumstances might you tend to tell the truth but not necessarily the whole truth?

Explore It

3. What event, prophesied by Samuel, surprised the people who had known Saul before? ([10:11](#))
4. *How did Saul respond to his uncle's questioning about his travels and his interactions with the prophet? ([10:14-16](#))
5. What important detail did Saul leave out of the story he told his uncle? ([10:16](#))
6. How did God characterize Himself in the words He spoke through Samuel? ([10:18](#))
7. By what action did Samuel say that Israel had "rejected your God"? ([10:19](#))
8. What was the methodology used by Samuel to discern and appoint God's choice for king? ([10:20-22](#))
9. *When the whole nation came together at Mizpah for Samuel to discern whom the Lord had chosen as Israel's king, where was Saul? ([10:21-22](#))
10. Who revealed the whereabouts of Saul so that he could be brought forward as king? ([10:22](#))
11. *What did the people notice about Saul when they brought him out of his hiding place? ([10:23](#))
12. How did Samuel present Saul to the people in order to enhance his popularity? ([10:24](#))
13. How did the people react to their new king? ([10:24](#))
14. What task remained for Samuel to do before the people went home? ([10:25](#))
15. What was the significance of writing down the rules of the kingship and depositing them before the Lord? ([10:25](#))
16. When Saul returned home to Gibeah, who accompanied him? ([10:26](#))

3. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Saul Made King - 1 Samuel 10:9-27".

17. How was Saul treated initially by a small minority of the people? ([10:27](#))
18. What was Saul's response to his critics among the Israelites? ([10:27](#))

Get It

19. *What might have motivated Saul to keep the prophecy and anointing for the kingship from his uncle?
20. *What was good or bad about Saul's response to his critics?
21. Why would you be eager or reluctant to assume a position of national honor and responsibility?
22. What "leadership qualities" did Saul have?
23. What sorts of characteristics might cause people to disrespect a leader?
24. To what extent is it a problem that "image" matters so much in politics?

Apply It

25. *How could you pray for courage the next time you are tempted to decline a call of God?
26. In what current situation might it be effective to maintain silence in the face of your critics?