

Biblical Drama based on 1 Samuel 8:4-18
Character Parts: Narrators 1-4, Leader, Samuel, God

Narrator 1: Before there was any king in Israel, the Prophet Samuel guided the people by giving them the Lord's instructions. But one day the nation's leaders came to Samuel at Ramah with a request.

Leader: Samuel, you are an old man. We know you set a good example for your sons, but they haven't followed it. When you are gone, they won't be able to lead us. So we want a king to be our leader, just like all the other nations. We want you to choose one for us!

Narrator 2: Samuel was upset to hear the leaders say they wanted a king, because he knew that would only lead to trouble. So he prayed to the Lord about it.

Samuel: Lord, the people have asked me to choose a king to rule over them. But you, O Lord, are the only King we need. Only you are right and just! The people should listen to you. Why have they turned against me like this?

God: Samuel, the people have not turned against you; they have turned against me. I am really the one they have rejected. Ever since the day I rescued my people from Egypt, they have turned from me to worship idols. Now they are turning away from the Word I have given you.

Samuel: So what should I tell them? Do you want me to argue against them?

God: No. They need to learn their lesson the hard way. I will let you go and do what the people ask. But I want you to warn them and tell them how badly a king will treat them.

Narrator 3: So Samuel gathered the people together to let them know what God had decided. Samuel told the people who were asking for a king what the Lord had said to him.

Samuel: God will let you have an earthly king. But he warns you that you will not like it.

Leader: Why do you say that?

Samuel: If you have a king, he will force your sons to

join his army. The king will make some ride in his chariots. Some will serve in the cavalry, and others will run ahead of the king's own chariot. The king himself will get to choose who is in charge.

Leader: That doesn't sound so bad ...

Samuel: Yes, but he will command your children as if they were his slaves. Some will have to farm the king's land and harvest his crops; others he will force to make weapons and chariots. Even your daughters will have to make perfume for the king, or do his cooking and baking.

Leader: Well, that doesn't bother me. My children need to learn some responsibility anyway ...

Samuel: But the king will also expect things from *you* as well. The king will take your best fields, as well as your vineyards and olive orchards. He will give your property to his own officials. He will also make you pay taxes and will take a tenth of your grain and grapes and give it to his own officers and officials.

Leader: But we'll still be able to live our lives. We'll still have our jobs.

Samuel: Not necessarily. The king will also take your slaves and your best young men and your donkeys and make them do *his* work. He will also take a tenth of your sheep and goats. In the end, you will become the king's slaves. There will come a day when you will cry out for the Lord to save you from the king you wanted; but then, it will be too late.

Leader: None of that will happen. You are just trying to scare us, Samuel! We want to be like other nations. We want a king to rule us and lead us in battle.

Samuel: Okay, but remember: you asked for it!

Narrator 4: Samuel did exactly what the Lord told him to do. Not long after, the Lord revealed to Samuel the man he had chosen to be the new king. God introduced Samuel to a man named Saul, who was tall and strong. So Samuel anointed Saul to be the people's first king.