

Lesson 1: Kingship

Today's Bible Story

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 and said, "You are an old man; you won't be around forever. We want a king to be our leader, just like all the other nations. Choose one for us!"

Samuel was upset to hear what they said, so he prayed about it. The Lord answered: "Samuel, do everything they want you to do. It is not you they have rejected; I am the one they have rejected as their king. Ever since the day I rescued my people from Egypt, they have turned from me to worship idols. Now they are turning away from you. Do what they ask, but warn them of how a king will treat them."

Samuel told the people what the Lord had said. He warned them: "If you have a king, he will rule over you. He will force your sons to join his army. Others will have to farm the king's land and harvest his crops, or make weapons and chariots for him. Your daughters will have to make perfume or do his cooking and baking. The king will take your best fields, vineyards, and orchards. He will also take a tenth of your grain and grapes and give it to his officers and officials. The king will take your best animals, and you will become his slaves. You will wish you never asked for this."

But the people still insisted that they wanted a king. So Samuel did what the people asked. Not long after, God led Samuel to a man named Saul. He was a tall and brave man. The Lord told Samuel, "This is the man I told you about. He's the one who will rule Israel." So Samuel anointed Saul with oil, and Saul became the first king of God's people.



From 1 Samuel 8:4-18, 9:15-17

Bible Rhyme

The Lord's own people Samuel led,
but they preferred a king instead.
But if kings were to run the show,
God warned them all how it would go.

"Over you the king will rule;
he may be greedy and be cruel.
He will take all that you have.
You'll be slaves, and you'll be sad."

But the people still insisted,
so Samuel, he did not resist it.
He announced the news to all:
"Your new lord will be King Saul."

They said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them." (1 Samuel 8:6-7)

God told Samuel to warn the people that they would regret having a King.

T	X	V	I	N	E	Y	A	R	D	S
H	M	P	Q	U	G	S	Z	V	T	B
E	A	E	K	D	N	R	D	N	C	Z
L	I	O	X	O	W	Q	A	H	X	F
O	D	P	S	N	H	V	U	I	U	L
R	S	L	C	K	R	B	G	V	N	O
D	E	E	Z	E	X	W	H	Q	W	C
Z	R	K	S	Y	K	C	T	Z	X	K
Q	V	N	B	S	F	I	E	L	D	S
X	A	O	R	C	H	A	R	D	S	Q
M	N	E	L	D	E	R	S	A	U	L
C	T	W	Q	F	R	E	E	D	O	M
P	S	A	M	U	E	L	Q	X	Z	W

Find the things Samuel said the King would take for himself:

freedom
manservants
maidservants
daughters
sons
vineyards
orchards
donkeys
flocks
fields
grain

Now go back to the puzzle and find the different characters that appear in the story:

The Lord, Samuel, Saul, Elders, People

Even after hearing God's warning, why do you think the people still wanted a king?

