

## 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8

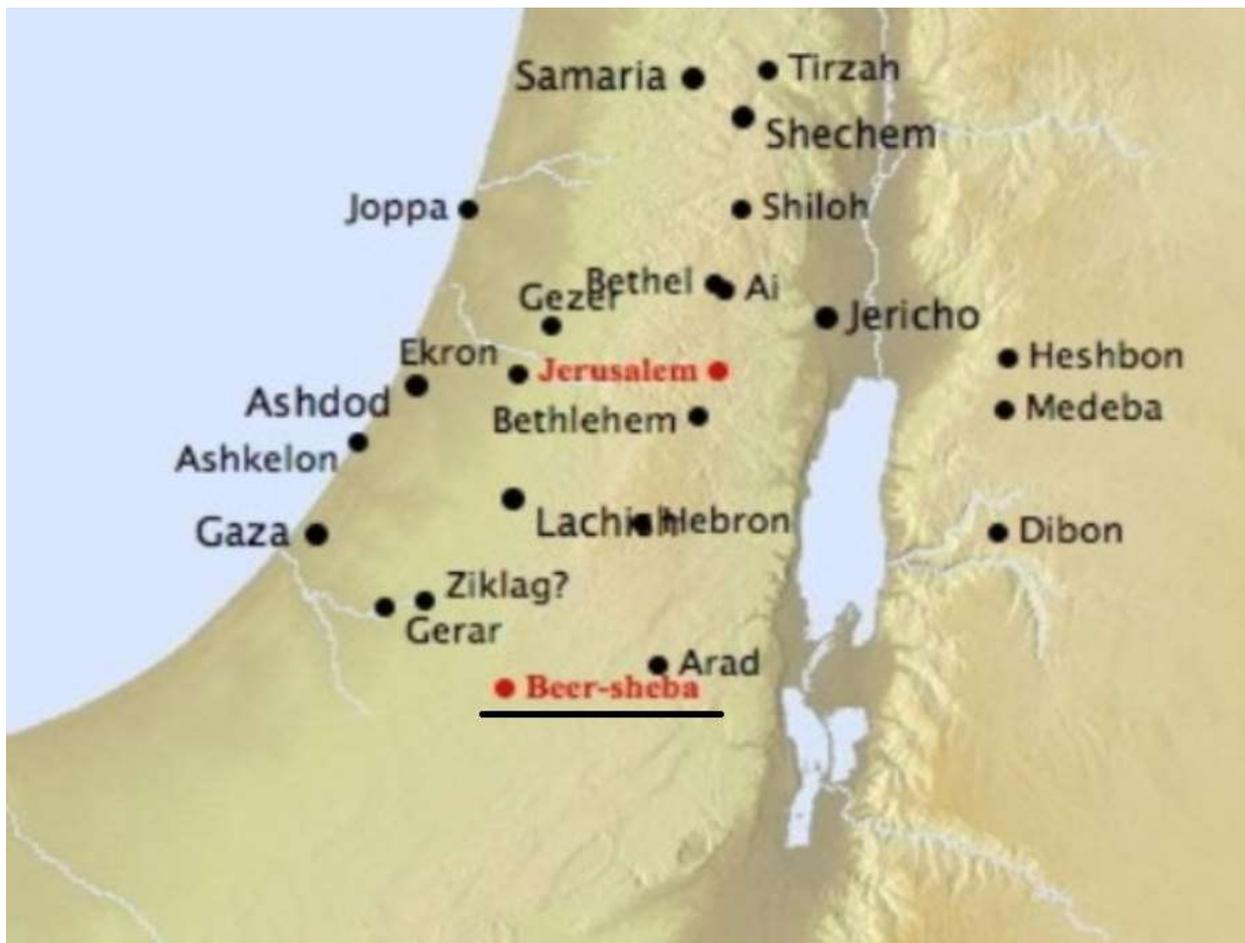
Verses 1 - 3

Now it came about, when Samuel was old, that he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. <sup>2</sup> The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; *they were judging in Beersheba.* <sup>3</sup> His sons, however, did not walk in his ways but turned aside after dishonest gain, and they took bribes and perverted justice.

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Beersheba is in the most southern part of Israel.

See Map 805



Unfortunately his sons lacked the personal character that Samuel displayed.

Verses 4 - 9

**<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; <sup>5</sup> and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint us a king to judge us like all the nations.” <sup>6</sup> But the matter was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people regarding all that they say to you, because they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being King over them. <sup>8</sup> Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have abandoned Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you as well. <sup>9</sup> Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall warn them strongly and tell them of the practice of the king who will reign over them.”**

**<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; <sup>5</sup> and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint us a king to judge us like all the nations.**

When the people approached Samuel about appointing a king for them they provided 3 reasons for their request.

1. Samuels days as a judge were coming to an end.
2. His sons were not honest like their father.
3. They wanted a system of government like the other nations.

**<sup>7</sup> And the Lord said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people regarding all that they say to you, because they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being King over them.”**

Despite what the elders had said to Samuel concerning their desire to have a king, God said their real motivation was something quite different. The people were not rejecting Samuel, they were rejecting God. This is a good example of how people can craft an argument that not only appears reasonable but also hides their true motives.

**<sup>8</sup> Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have abandoned Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you as well.**

Israel had shown themselves to be rebellious from the time of the Exodus to this very day. There were brief periods of time when they were sorry for their sin and repented but once they got the relief they wanted they quickly returned to their old ways.

**<sup>9</sup> Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall warn them strongly and tell them of the practice of the king who will reign over them.”**

Isn't it amazing how God respects the free will of mankind? Even though Israel has rejected Him he still allows them to have what they desire. It came with a warning but the people got what they wanted.

Verses 10 - 18

**<sup>10</sup> So Samuel spoke all the words of the Lord to the people who had asked him for a king. <sup>11</sup> And he said, “This will be the practice of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and put *them* in his chariots for himself and among his horsemen, and they will run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup> He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and *some* to do his plowing and to gather in his harvest, and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will also take your daughters *and use them* as perfumers, cooks, and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give *them* to his servants. <sup>15</sup> And he will take a tenth of your seed and your vineyards and give *it* to his high officials and his servants. <sup>16</sup> He will also take your male servants and your female servants, and your best young men, and your donkeys, and use *them* for his work. <sup>17</sup> He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants. <sup>18</sup> Then you will cry out on that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you on that day.”**

**<sup>10</sup> So Samuel spoke all the words of the Lord to the people who had asked him for a king.**

God gave them fair warning about the cost of having an earthly king.

**11 And he said, “This will be the practice of the king who will reign over you**

He will take your sons and daughters

He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards

He will take the best of your cattle and your donkeys

He will take the tenth of your flocks

The total cost of having a king is hard to calculate but we know that the kingdom of Israel split over the issue of taxation when Solomon died.

**18 Then you will cry out on that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you on that day.”**

Throughout the history of Israel, there were very few good kings. During the period of divided kingdom there were 38 kings. The Northern Kingdom had 19 kings and they were all bad while the Southern Kingdom had 8 good kings and 11 bad. Overall, only 21% of the kings were good. How do you think they liked them apples?

Verses 19 - 22

**19 Yet the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, “No, but there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup> so that we also may be like all the nations, and our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” <sup>21</sup> Now after Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the Lord’s hearing. <sup>22</sup> And the Lord said to Samuel, “Listen to their voice and appoint a king for them.” So Samuel said to the men of Israel, “Go, every man to his city.”**

**19 Yet the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, “No, but there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup> so that we also may be like all the nations, and our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”**

God had already done and was doing all of the things they wanted in a King.

For 300 years God provided judges to judge their civil cases, and to lead them into battle against their enemies. God personally helped by confusing the enemy, sending rain to stop their chariots, sending hail to kill their troops, sending a one man wrecking crew when they were too weak to fight.

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Samuel would anoint two kings during his ministry, Saul and David, but the Lord was the one who chose the men.

See 1 Samuel 9:17

**<sup>17</sup> When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, "Behold, the man of whom I spoke to you! This one shall rule over My people."**

See 1 Samuel 16

**<sup>12</sup> So he sent *word* and brought him in. Now he was reddish, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." <sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel set out and went to Ramah.**