

4.02 A KING IS CHOSEN

1 SAMUEL 8-10

Long ago in the land of Israel, there were judges that ruled the land. Samuel was one of the good judges. He loved God and obeyed Him. Samuel fought against Israel's enemies and there was peace in the land. As Samuel grew old, his oldest sons became judges. But they were only interested in money. They were not good judges. The leaders of Israel had a meeting and decided they didn't want judges anymore. They told Samuel they wanted a king instead.

Samuel went to the Lord God for guidance. God told him. "The people are not against you; they are against Me. Give them what they want. But warn them about the way a king will rule over them."

Samuel went to the people. He told them about how a king rule. "A king will make some of your sons be soldiers in the army. He will make some of them work in the fields. He will make your daughters cook for him. He will take the best of your crops and the best of your animals. You will be his slaves. Then you will beg the Lord to help you, but He will not."

The people didn't listen. "We still want a king," they said. "We want to be like all the other nations." Samuel told the Lord what they said. The Lord replied, "Give them a king."

In the land of Israel, there was a man named Kish. His donkeys were lost, and he sent his son, Saul, to find them. A servant went with him. Saul and his servant walked and walked but did not find the donkeys. Then, Saul's servant said, "Let's go into town. There is a man of God there—a prophet—who can tell us where to find the donkeys."

Saul and his servant went into town. As they entered the town, there was Samuel! The Lord said to Samuel, "This is the man. Anoint him ruler over my people."

Saul came up to Samuel and said, "Do you know where the prophet is?" Samuel said, "I am the prophet. Today, come eat with me. Do not worry about the donkeys. They have been found."

The next morning, Samuel sent the servant ahead and spoke to Saul. "I have a message for you from God," he said. "As you are traveling toward home, you will see some prophets playing musical instruments. They will be telling messages from God. The Spirit of God will come upon you and you will have messages from God also. You will be a changed person. God will be with you."

Soon Samuel called all the people of Israel together. He told them, "This is what the Lord says, 'I brought you out of Egypt. I saved you from all the kingdoms that fought against you.' But now, you have rejected God and want a king. Gather all your families together. I have an announcement."

When Saul was brought out, there was no one as tall as he was. Samuel said, "Now see the man that God has chosen. There is no one like him among all the people." All the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"

That is how Saul became the first king of Israel.

4.02 A KING IS CHOSEN - TEACHER'S GUIDE

1 SAMUEL 8-10

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) For many years, the Israelites had been ruled by judges. Samuel was a good judge, but he was getting old. His sons were not good judges. The people wanted a king to rule them instead, just like the other nations.
- 2) Samuel told the Lord God the people wanted a king. God said to warn them about how a king would rule.
- 3) Samuel told the people a king would tell their sons and daughters what kind of jobs they must have. The people would have to give the king the best of their crops and animals. A king would make them slaves. However, the Israelites still wanted a king.
- 4) God told Samuel about Saul. When Samuel met Saul, he knew Saul was the man God told him about. He told Saul that God would be with him.
- 5) The Israelites gathered together. Saul was brought to them. They cried, "Long live the king!"

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why did the Israelites want a king?
- 2) What did God tell Samuel?
- 3) What were the warnings?
- 4) How did Samuel know who Saul was?
- 5) What did the Israelites say when they saw Saul?

ANSWERS:

- 1) The Israelites wanted a king so they would be like the other nations.
- 2) God told Samuel to warn the people about how a king would rule.
- 3) A king would keep the best of their crops and animals and also tell their children what jobs they must do. They would be slaves to the king.
- 4) God had told Samuel about Saul.
- 5) The Israelites said, "Long live the King!" when they saw Saul.