

1 Samuel 8:1-22

Pray

Sermon headings:

The Israelites reject God as their king

The Israelites abandon their identity as God's holy people

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22

1. According to verses 1 to 5, what causes the elders of Israel to speak to Samuel, and what do they want?
2. Why do you think this displeases Samuel, in verse 6?
3. According to verses 7 to 9, who are they really rejecting and what does their request for a king equate to?
4. Look at verses 10 to 18. How would you describe the behaviour of human kings? What word is used repeatedly to describe their behaviour?
5. According to verse 17, what would be the result of human kingship?
6. Can you think of times when the Israelites cried out to God for relief in the past? When were they? What did God do?

7. According to verse 18, what will God do when the Israelites cry out for relief this time?
8. What would the Israelites gain by choosing human kingship and what would they lose?
9. Why do you think they go ahead with it anyway, in verse 19?
10. What is significant about their desire to be 'like all the other nations' in verse 20?
11. In what ways is the kingship of Jesus different to the kingship described in these verses?
 - What do we gain and lose by following him?
 - Why is his kingship easy to embrace?
12. In what ways are you tempted to be like the other people around you?
 - What will help you to keep living distinctively?

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray about the things you've discussed.