

The Rejected Deity

Why should God be our King?
¿Por qué Dios debería ser nuestro Rey?

1. God is a perfect _____.

Dios es un _____ perfecto.

1 Samuel 8:1

1 Samuel 8:3

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (2 Timoteo 4:7-8)

2. God is a prolific _____.

Dios es un _____ prolífico.

1 Samuel 8:8

1 Samuel 8:11

James 1:17 (Santiago 1:17)

3. God is a powerful _____.

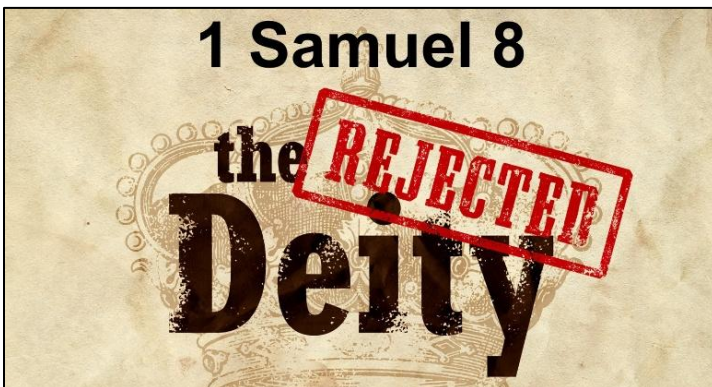
Dios es un _____ poderoso.

1 Samuel 8:19-20

1 Samuel 7:10

Deuteronomy 20:1-4 (Deuteronomio 20:1-4)

Romans 16:19-20 (Romanos 16:19-20)



Discussion Questions and Notes

Week 9: October 11-18

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8

1 Samuel chapter 8 is a key transition in the history of Israel. This is when the people of Israel decide that they want to have a human king to rule over them. At this point, Samuel is old and his sons are not good leaders. So, the elders ask Samuel to appoint a king “such as all the other nations have.” This chapter is not really about politics. It is not really about Samuel’s replacement plan. It is about a people deciding that God was no longer their king. They wanted someone they could see, control, and help them to be more like the nations of the world. People today are still rejecting God as their king and following human leaders and worldly ideas. In this chapter we see several reasons why we should accept God as our king.

Read 1 Samuel 8

1. Who did Samuel appoint as judges to replace him? (8:1-2)

John Woodhouse notes,

It is worth noting that Joel and Abijah were judges in the far south, in Beersheba, some fifty miles from Samuel’s home in Ramah... This introduces a further difference between Samuel and his two sons and the earlier situation with Eli and his boys. Hophni and Phinehas were working in Shiloh under the direct supervision of Eli. Eli could not escape some considerable measure of responsibility for the conduct of his sons. However, Joel and Abijah were a long way from Samuel’s direct observation and influence.
(Woodhouse, 141)

2. How were Samuel’s sons different from their father? (8:3)

Joel and Abijah did not follow in the ways of their father. They were dishonest and they perverted justice. However, the Bible does not say that Samuel was a bad father. In the case with Eli and his sons, the Bible clearly condemns Eli for his failure to discipline his sons (1 Sam. 2:29; 3:13). 1 Samuel 12:1-2

indicates that Samuel removed his sons from leadership. We also know from 1 Chronicles 6:31-33, that Heman, the son of Joel and grandson of Samuel, was a musician that King David appointed to be a worship leader. 1 Chronicles 25:4-6 says that Heman was the king's seer and God blessed him with a lot of children who served as musicians in the temple.

3. Why did the elders want Samuel to appoint a king to lead Israel? (8:4-5)
4. How did Samuel respond to the request of the elders? (8:6)
5. What did God tell Samuel in verse 7?
6. How did God summarize the history of Israel in verse 8?
7. Why did God include the request for a king in the same category with idolatry?
8. What did God tell Samuel to say to the people? (8:9)
9. What would a king take from the people of Israel? (8:10-17)

James Smith writes,

The climax of the disadvantages in monarchy is reached in v. 17b. With the monotonous use of second person possessive pronouns, Samuel gradually had accustomed his audience to the radical adjustments which monarchy will necessitate. Now he blasted them with this devastating announcement: and you yourselves will become his slaves. The appointment of a king would return Israel to the slave status from which Yahweh had set them free (cf. 2:27). (Smith, 123-124)

10. How would God respond if they found that they did not like the king? (8:18)
11. What was the initial response that the people gave to Samuel's warnings? (8:19)

12. What reasons did the people give for demanding a king?
(8:20)

13. When Samuel brought the reaction of Israel before God, what did God command him? (8:21-22)

14. Why do you think Samuel appointed his sons as judges even though they didn't walk in his ways?

15. What should we remember whenever we are rejected or despised because of our faith in God?

16. Why was it hard for the Israelites to see the negative side of having a king?

17. When is it wrong to be like other people in the world?

18. How is Jesus Christ different from all other kings?

Woodhouse observes,

To think that leaders like the leaders of this world can give us security, peace, and justice is very foolish. Indeed, the message of the gospel is that there is a king whose justice is altogether different from the "justice" Samuel warned the people they would get from their king. For Jesus is a king who does not take, he gives.
(Woodhouse, 151)

19. What does it mean for you to follow Christ as your king?

20. Before you make plans for your life, how will you seek God's perspective on what is best for you?

Sources cited:

Smith, James. *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000.

Woodhouse, John. *1 Samuel: Looking for a Leader*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.