

## I. The Desire for a Lesser King (1-6)

- A. The desire came in their season of dissatisfaction (1-2) - “When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel.”
- B. The desire came in their season of decline (3-4) - “Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.” **When leaders disappoint, followers will want change...even hasty, unwise changes.**
- C. The desire came in their season of demanding (5-6) - “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

## II. The Deferring to a Lesser King (7-10)

A. God allowed their demands (7a) - “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.””

B. God allowed their derailment (8-9a) - “According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking Me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. 9 Now then, obey their voice...”

**God was not approving the lesser of two available options. He had never given them an option beside His own rule. Therefore Israel sinned.**

C. God allowed them no excuses (9b-10) - “...only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them. 10 So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king from him.”

## III. The Detriment of a Lesser King (11-18)

**“These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you...”**

- A. Under a lesser king, your family suffers (11-13) - “he will take your sons...he will take your daughters...”
- B. Under a lesser king, your fruitfulness suffers (14-16) - “He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards...”
- C. Under a lesser king, your freedom suffers (17) - “...you shall be his slaves...”
- D. Under a lesser king, your faith suffers (18) - “And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

## IV. The Determination for a Lesser King (19-22)

- A. Truth rejected (19a) - “But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, No!”
- B. Compromise allowed (19b - 20a) - “But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations...”
- C. Lies believed (20b) - “...that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”
- D. Self is enthroned (21-22) - “And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. 22 And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey their voice and make them a king.” Samuel then said to the men of Israel, “Go every man to his city.”

**The stubborn self will of God’s people became their authority.**