# The Demand of Israel for a King: Choosing the Ways of the World and Rejecting God
# 1 Samuel 08:01–09

**1.** ***The reasons for demanding a king: Corruption and worldliness***

a. An aged leadership

b. A corrupt leadership and judicial system

1) Samuel's sons were appointed to succeed him

2) His sons were corrupt

- Were dishonest, greedy for money
- Accepted bribes
- Perverted justice

c. A desire to be like the surrounding nations: A picture of carnality, seeking after the ways of the world

1) The elders approached Samuel

2) They demanded a king just "like all the nations"

1 When Samuel grew old,
he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders.

2 The name of his first-born was Joel
and the name of his second was Abijah,
and they served at Beersheba.

3 But his sons did not follow his ways.
They turned aside after dishonest gain
and accepted bribes
and perverted justice.

4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together
and came to Samuel at Ramah.

5 They said to him, "You are old,
and your sons do not follow your ways;
now appoint a king to lead us,
such as all the other nations have."

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| **2.** ***The tragedy of demanding a king: A picture of forsaking God*** | 6 But when they said,<br>"Give us a king to lead us,"<br>this displeased Samuel;<br>so he prayed to the LORD. |
| a. The displeasure and prayer of Samuel | |
| b. The response of God to Samuel | 7 And the LORD told him:<br>"Listen to all that the people are saying to you;<br>it is not you they have rejected,<br>but they have rejected me as their king. |
| 1) Instructed him to grant their request | |
| 2) Assured him that the people were not rejecting him, but God:<br>They were forsaking God just as they had done since their deliverance from Egypt | 8 As they have done from the day<br>I brought them up out of Egypt until this day,<br>forsaking me and serving other gods,<br>so they are doing to you. |
| 3) Told him to warn the people:<br>Warn them of the consequences of being ruled by a king | 9 Now listen to them;<br>but warn them solemnly<br>and let them know what the king<br>who will reign over them<br>will claim as his rights." |