

Saul

1 Samuel 8 - 15

The children of Israel had been ruled by God through prophets. Now they wanted a king to rule over them.

What are some demands a king will make?

Today we will read about Israel's first king. Let's see what problems Israel now has.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send Your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word which we are about to study. Help me to learn about Saul, the first king of Israel. Please be with our leaders - pastors, teachers, government, police, and others - so that they are good leaders. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Saul

Samuel, the prophet of God, was old. His sons were prophets over Israel, but they were not God-fearing like their father. Because of this the elders of Israel asked for a king. They also wanted to be like other nations who were ruled by a king.

Samuel didn't like the idea, but he prayed about it. God told him, "It is not you they have rejected as their leader, but Me. Listen to what they want, but warn them and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do.

Samuel warned the people, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and put them in his army or he will set some to plow his ground. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. He will take the best of your fields,

your vineyards, and your olive groves. He will take a tenth of your grain and he will take your servants and animals."

The people still wanted a king.

God chose Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. His father's name was Kish. One day when some of their donkeys were lost Saul and his servant went to look for them. When they couldn't find them they went to ask the prophet Samuel for help. Samuel told them the good news that the donkeys had already been found, but he had something even greater to tell Saul. God had chosen Saul to be the first king of Israel. As God had instructed him, Samuel anointed Saul as king. He told Saul and his servant they would meet some men who would give them bread. Samuel also told Saul the spirit of the LORD would be with



him. Saul was to meet him again in several days to sacrifice to the LORD.

Things happened just as Samuel said they would. Samuel called the people together at Mizpah to tell them what God said.

"I am the God who brought you out of Egypt, but today you have rejected Me by asking for a king."

So God chose Saul for a king. When Samuel first made the announcement about the new king, Saul hid himself. When he was found, the people cried out, "Long live the king!" When he stood among the people Saul was taller than anyone else.

Samuel set down some rules, wrote them down and sent the people home.

There was much fighting during Saul's reign, but at first the Lord was with him, and the people rejoiced greatly.

Samuel again reviewed with the people how God had helped them in the past and how He had been with the leaders like Moses and Jacob. However, when the people disobeyed God, things did not go well. That is also how it would be with a king as leader. Obey and all is well. Disobey and the hand of the Lord would be against them.

To show them what he said was true he called for thunder and rain. The thunder and rain came and the people feared the Lord and Samuel. Samuel prayed for the people and told them to serve the Lord with all their heart.

Saul was ruling and taking men to fight the Philistine enemies. He was in Gilgal one day, waiting for Samuel to come and offer a sacrifice. When Samuel didn't come, Saul became impatient and offered the sacrifice himself. Because Saul

disobeyed God's law in doing this, the kingdom of Israel would be taken from Saul's family.

Jonathan, Saul's son, went to fight the Philistines, but didn't tell his father. The Philistines became afraid when they witnessed Jonathan's bravery. Saul gave an unwise command to his men. He told them not to eat at all that day. Jonathan did not hear this command and ate some honey he found. The other men were very hungry and weak, but Jonathan was refreshed. He told them that more Philistines would have been killed that day if the men had eaten.

When Saul heard that Jonathan had disobeyed his command he would have killed his son, but the other soldiers pleaded for him and Jonathan was spared.

One time Saul was at war with the Amalekites. God told Saul to destroy all the people and animals. Saul and his army killed many of the people and animals, but spared the life of King Agag and some of the best sheep and oxen. Samuel came to Saul and asked him why he had disobeyed God. At first Saul lied and told Samuel he had done what the LORD said.

Then Saul said, "We kept the animals to sacrifice to God."

Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." Samuel then killed the enemy king, Agag.

Samuel left Saul and mourned for him because of Saul's unbelief. Samuel never again went to see King Saul. The LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

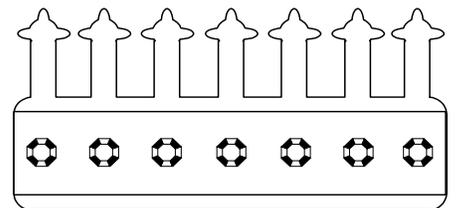
Outer Aim - God gave His people a king when they asked, but Saul did not stay a faithful king.

What The Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the WORD BOX.

You will use some words more than once.

Saul	Agag	fighting	Jonathan	king	rejected
donkeys	obey	LORD	offering	sacrifice	animals

1. Israel asked for a _____.
2. The people _____ God in asking for a different ruler.
3. _____ was chosen as king.
4. _____ and his servant looked for some lost _____.
5. There was much _____ during Saul's rule.
6. The _____ was with Saul at first.
7. Then Saul disobeyed by _____ a _____ instead of waiting for Samuel.
8. _____, Saul's son, ate honey and was nearly put to death for that.
9. Saul and the army again disobeyed God by not destroying all of the Amalekites, saving _____ and some of the best _____.
10. To _____ is better than sacrifice.



Inner Aim - God wants us to remain faithful to Him and His Word.

What God Tells Us - God wants us to remember His chosen leaders in our prayers asking God to guide them. CROSSWORD PUZZLE - Fill in the crossword puzzle using words from the Word Box.

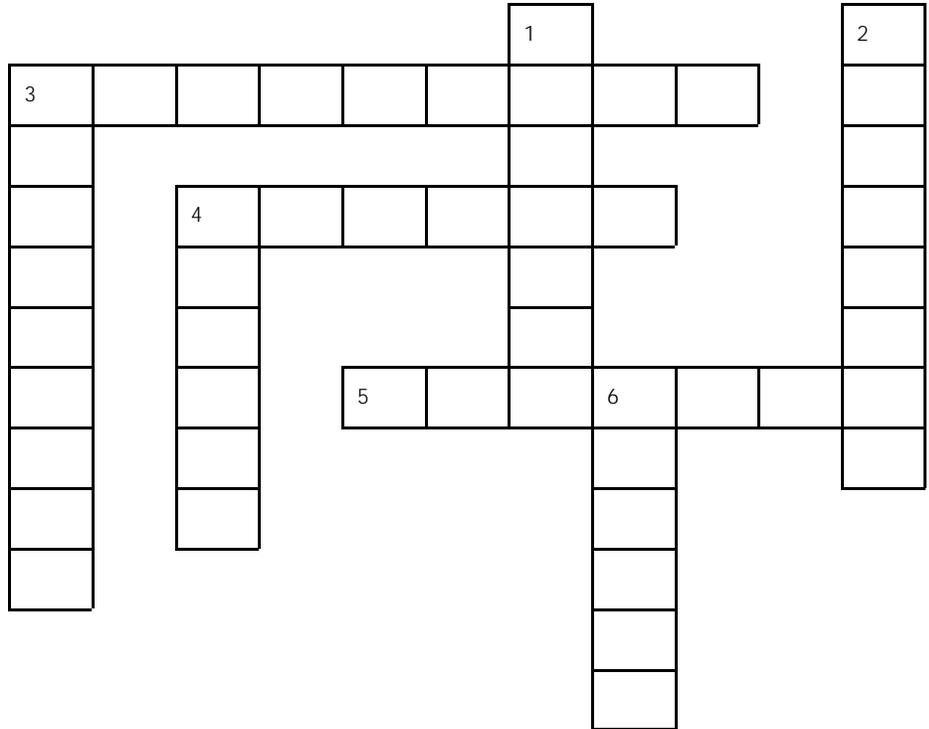
SOME OF GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES			
PASTOR	CONGRESS	PRESIDENT	PRINCIPAL
ELDERS	PARENTS	POLICE	TEACHER

ACROSS

- 3. ____ :the leader of the U.S.A.
- 4. ____ :the safety leader in the community.
- 5. ____ :the leaders of the children in a family.

DOWN

- 1. ____ :the leader in the classroom
- 2. ____ :the group of leaders in Washington, DC.
- 3. ____ :the leader of the whole school.
- 4. ____ :the spiritual leader of the church.
- 6. ____ :people older than me.



Your Turn - Read the following passage.

Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey God rather than men.

Give an example of when you may have to obey God and His Word rather than one of God's representatives.

Passages

1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding.

Hymn - TLH #295 v. 1, 5, 6

The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we
transgress.

The Law is good; but since the Fall,
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no power to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone. Amen

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

Thank You for sending Jesus. We sin every day and would go to hell if Jesus had not come and kept Your laws perfectly. Help us to be sorry for our sins and to trust in the forgiveness which Jesus has earned for us. We ask this in Jesus' saving name. Amen.