

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

# 1 SAMUEL 8

## 1 Samuel 8

I Samuel chapter eight records the sad history of Samuel following in the footsteps of his mentor Eli concerning the discipline of his sons. ***"Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. Then all the elders of Israel gathered and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."*** (I Samuel 8:1-5) Samuel was displeased when the people said, "give us a king" but in reality, if Samuel had managed his household better and disciplined his sons, not insisting that they be his successor, the nation might have not asked for a king when they did.

God warned the people that one day they would come to this point and that it would be a rejection of His leadership as well as others, see verse seven. Even though Samuel's sons were not what *they* needed to be, the people were

rejecting *Samuel's* leadership, with whom God was well pleased, and in rejecting Samuel they were indeed rejecting God. In verses ten through eighteen Samuel faithfully told the people what God had told him, but they still rejected God's way. God warned they would one day be at a king's mercy and that he would control every aspect of their lives, but when people have a mindset on doing something, they will do it no matter what anyone says. ***"There is a way that seems right to a man and the end thereof is death."*** The people insisted they wanted a king, so they could be "like all the other nations" around them. They wanted a king, not Samuel, God's man to judge them. They wanted a political and military leader to lead them, not necessarily a Holy Man of God. They desired to do things like the nations God had destroyed before them. The warning went unheeded, so Samuel sent everyone home to wait for next steps.

### Prayer and Action Steps

*Being a leader is a lonely assignment. Samuel was not perfect, but He was a true "Man of God", but the people wanted a political and military leader. Character was not important at this point. It would be.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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