

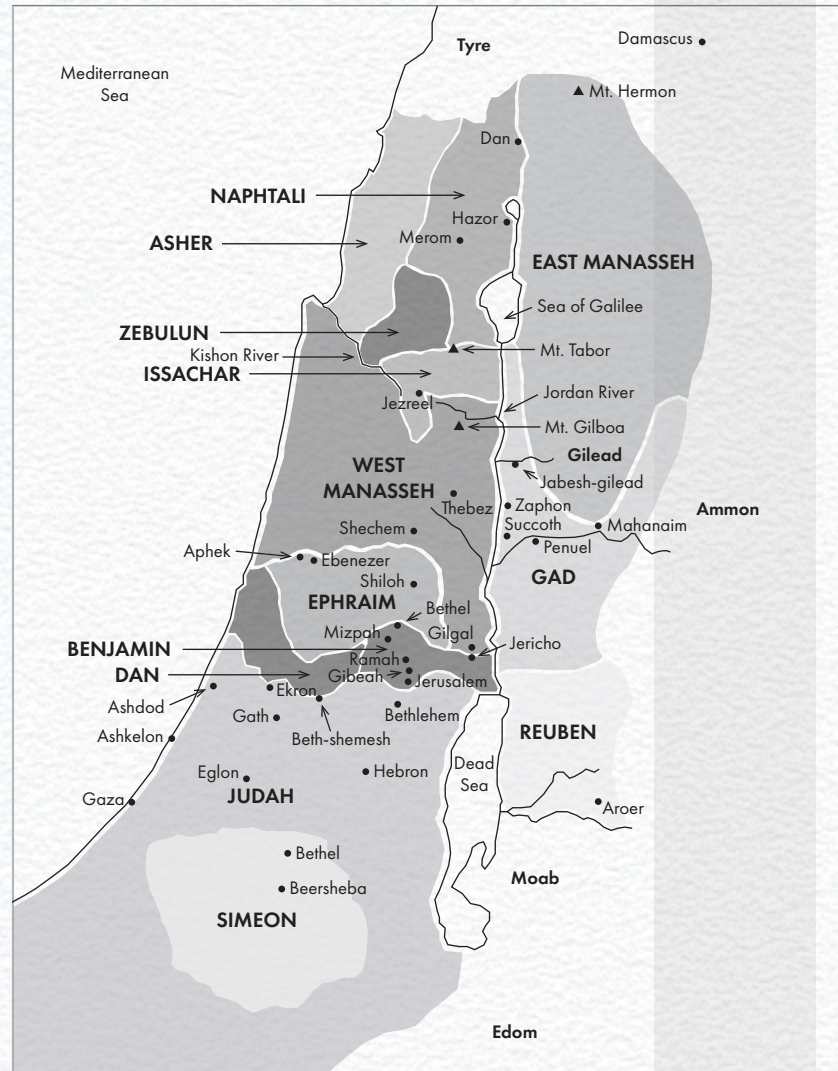
1 Samuel 8

WHEN

- Samuel was born in approximately 1100 B.C.
- Samuel lived until approximately 1012 B.C.
- Israel's first king was appointed in approximately 1050 B.C.

WHERE

- Samuel judged the Israelites in Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah (7:16).
- Samuel met with the elders of Israel at Ramah.



CHARACTERS

- **Samuel** – He grew up in Shiloh under the care of Eli. He judged Israel until his death.
- **Joel and Abijah** – Samuel's sons. They judged Israel like their father, but they were not good men.
- **The Elders of Israel** – They asked Samuel to appoint a king over Israel.

OUTLINE

- THE ISRAELITES ASK FOR A KING (8:1-9):

- + When Samuel was old, he made his sons judges in Israel, but they were unjust and took bribes.
- + The elders of Israel met with Samuel to discuss the future of the nation.
- + They requested a king be appointed over them, so they could be like all the other nations.
- + This request displeased Samuel, because it showed a lack of trust in God's guidance of the nation.
- + Samuel prayed to God to ask for guidance.
- + The Lord wasn't happy with the people's request. He told Samuel the Israelites were rejecting Him as their king, in favor of a human king.
- + Nevertheless, God told Samuel to honor the people's request, but to warn them of the consequences of their choice.

- THE CONSEQUENCES OF A KING (8:10-22):

- + Samuel went back to the elders of Israel and told them the words of God.
- + If they appointed a king in Israel, the king would take their sons and make them his soldiers.
- + He would use their children as servants to plow his ground and reap his fields.
- + Their daughters would work in his kitchens.
- + If a king was appointed in Israel, he would take the best of the people's harvest, flocks, and servants and keep them for himself and his officers.
- + Samuel prophesied that a day would come when the people would cry out to the Lord to save them from their oppressive king, but the Lord would not help them.
- + When Samuel finished his warning, the elders of Israel disregarded it and reaffirmed their desire for a king in Israel.
- + They said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles" (8:19-22).

APPLICATION

- No system of government will save a nation if they abandon God.
- Israel was blessed as a nation during the period of the judges AND the period of the kings when they obeyed the commands of God.
- Israel failed as a nation during the period of the judges AND the period of the kings when they disobeyed the commands of God.
- The success of a nation has more to do with God than the chosen system of government.