

I SAMUEL 8

1. I Samuel 8 is an important chapter because it marks the end of the period of the judges and the beginning of the period of the kings. Eli and Samuel were the last two major **judges**. How long did Eli judge (see I Samuel 4:18)? How long did Samuel judge (see 7:15).

2. Verse 3 describes **Samuel's sons**. In your own words, how would you describe them?

What two men that we read about earlier in I Samuel are Samuel's sons similar to?

3. Hundreds of years before the days of Samuel, God predicted that the people would ask for a **king**. Please read Deuteronomy 17:14-20. What are some things that the king *should not* do? What are some things that the king *should* do?

4. In verse 7, the Lord told Samuel to '**listen** to' (or 'obey' or 'heed') the voice of the people. In what other verses does he give Samuel the same command in this chapter?

Why do you think that God told Samuel to obey the people's request for a king even though God was clearly displeased with their request?

5. After reading the chapter, what exactly do you think was the problem with the people asking for a king? Why was it sinful?

6. In verses 10-18, Samuel warns the people what the king will be like. He says that the king will **'take'** a lot from them. List all the things that the king would take.

7. What new information do we get in verse 20 that we did not get in verse 5 regarding the people's request for a king?

8. The people of Israel wanted to have a king like the **nations around them**. What do you think often motivates our desire to be more like the culture around us? How have you experienced this desire to be like this world in your life?

9. What is at least one thing you learn about **God's character** in this chapter?