

***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***  
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**SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)**

**MONDAY**

**OPEN**

You asked for it; you had to have it; you insisted on it. It wasn't God's will, but you got it. Now how do you live with your mistake? Because the Bible says that He gave them the desires of their hearts, but He sent leanness to their souls. Oh beloved, we need to talk about this subject today, as we look at God's precepts for life.

**PART ONE**

Well beloved, let's open our Bibles to 1 Samuel, chapter 8 and discover God's instruction, His encouragement, His precepts for life. What do we need to learn about wanting something so badly that we just have to have it, and then when we get it we discover it's not what I should have had? We get it because we're bound and determined we've got to have it, and then when it comes it brings all sorts of problems with it. Well this is what we see happening in 1 Samuel, chapter 8. We've come to that part of my little ditty

on 1 Samuel. It's the ditty about what this book is all about. So let me go over it with a risk of you just shaking your head and saying, O Kay, you could have come with something better. That's so corny. Well let me be corny for a minute. Priesthood corrupts. We saw that in 1 Samuel chapters 1 through 3 and in Eli and his sons. Prophet erupts, and we saw Samuel the son of Hannah and Elkanah coming to the fore, and we have seen him labeled as a prophet. And then we come to the third part of my little ditty. Theocracy denied; that means that they don't want God to rule over them. A theocracy is when God rules. Okay, so priesthood corrupts; prophet erupts, theocracy denied. I'll go ahead and give you the rest. Judges subside, kings arise and God abides, the merciful sovereign, the Lord of hosts. Well we have seen that the Lord of hosts is introduced to us. The first mention of God as the Lord of hosts is found in 1 Samuel chapter 1, verse 3, and then it is used extensively in the major and minor prophets. It stresses God's sovereignty over all the powers in heaven and on earth. Well when we come to this third description of the book of Samuel, theocracy denied, we see that they do not want the Lord of hosts to be directly over their hosts. Let's look at it. Let me read it to you and you'll find out why and you'll find out what. And then we'll find out how to apply it to our lives. Now as I say all this I just have to stop and thank you very, very much for being a person that wants to know the whole counsel of God, to understand truth for yourself. So we come to 1 Samuel chapter 8, a new segment in the book of Samuel because of what is about to happen. A theocracy is about to be denied. All right, in chapter 8 it says: "And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel." (1 Samuel 8:1) Now remember we're marking time phrases. And so we see that by chapter 8, we have come to when Samuel is an old man. I mean we knew him in chapter 1 when he wasn't even born yet, when he hadn't even been conceived in Hannah's womb. And now in chapter 8 he's old and he has sons. Nothing told to us in the scriptures about his marriage or about his sons except right here and in

the book of Chronicles where his sons are named also. It says, “Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judging in Beersheba.”(8:2) Now one of the things that you find as we look at this passage in the last verses of 1 Samuel, chapter 7 is that Samuel wasn’t all over Israel, but he went annually on circuit to Bethel, to Gilgal, to Mizpah and he judged Israel in all these places, and then he returned to Ramah, which was his hometown and there he judged Israel. Well his sons Joel and Abijah are judging in Beersheba. Now Beersheba is to the south. It’s down in the Negev. Remember many times when they’re saying something happened in Israel it happened all the way from Dan in the north to Beersheba, from Dan to Beersheba. And when we do our Bible teaching tours, and they’re awesome. Oh, I would love to have you go with us. I mean it’s a trip of a lifetime. People come, they bring their children and we have the best time, but we literally go from Dan to Beersheba on that tour. And the Bible comes alive. Well they were judging in Beersheba. “His sons however did not walk in his ways, but they turned aside after dishonest gain and they took bribes and they perverted justice.” (8:3) You say, hey, wait a minute. I remember Eli’s sons didn’t follow the Lord; now here’s Samuel’s sons not following the Lord either. And because they’re not following the Lord the people don’t want them as judges. It says, verse 4, “Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; and they said to him, ‘Behold, you have grown old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.’” (8:4-5) We want a king. Now if I want a king, then what I’m doing is I don’t want a theocracy. So that’s why I’ve come up with this little ditty: priesthood corrupts, prophet erupts, that’s Samuel, theocracy denied. They want to be like all the other nations. They don’t want just God in heaven ruling, but they want a mediator, somebody between them and God and they want a king. And they want a king, number one: because they want to be like all the nations. Number two: they want a king because they don’t want Samuel’s

sons as judges. Now when you stop here you could do all sorts of supposing. You could say, gosh, Samuel blew it just like Eli. But the Bible does not tell us that. The Bible doesn't tell us how Samuel related to his sons at all. There's nothing written about it. So when God doesn't tell you, don't go where God doesn't take you. If God wanted you to know He would tell you. If it was important, if it would change something, if it would change your understanding of the truth, if it would help you live better God would tell you. If it would give you a precept for life God would tell you. But God doesn't tell us. He doesn't tell us why Samuel's sons were the way that they were. He only tells us what they were and what they were was not good. So when they say, "Behold, you have grown old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king...." (8:5b) And the word for king here is melek in the Hebrew, m-e-l-e-k. "...A king for us to judge us like all the nations." (8:5c) All right, "But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us, and Samuel prayed to the Lord." Now I want us to stop; in case you did not download your study guide, I want to tell you what to do and then I want to tell you that you need to download your study guide. You need to go to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com) and download the study guide on 1 Samuel. Why? Because the purpose of this program is to establish you in the Word of God, so that you might become a woman, a man who lives an exemplary follower of Jesus Christ, studying the Bible inductively, viewing the world biblically and serving the church faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit. If you're going to serve the church faithfully, if you're going to view the world biblically you've got to know the Word of God. You've got to know it for yourself and that's what we mean by inductive Bible study. Well one of the things that we tell you is, when you get to this chapter the word king is a key repeated word. And so you want to mark in a special way every reference to king. I would just color it. I just underlined it in red, whatever you want to do, mark it. I can look down and I can see every reference to king in chapter 8. So I not only mark

king, but I mark the pronouns or any synonyms that go with king. So I'm going to help you. You get your colored pencil, if you haven't done this yet, and we're going to mark king. All right also, I want you to mark prayed. It said, "Samuel prayed to the Lord." And any time you come across prayer or supplication, or intercession, or asking God, you need to mark it in the same way, because we need to learn what we can about prayer. And you learn it by seeing who prayed, when they prayed, what they asked for, why they prayed, so you go through the five W's and an H, the who, the what, the when, the where, the why and the how. We just know that Samuel prayed to the Lord, because this was displeasing in God's sight. And so then "the Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people...,'" I'm in verse 7, "...in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them." How sad, how it must have grieved the heart of God, because remember, God does have feelings. To think that these people did not want Him to rule over them. What about you beloved? We'll talk about it when we come back.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back beloved. Can you imagine rejecting God? This is what happened. When the people came to Samuel and said we want a king like other nations. I mean Samuel prayed. How he prayed, but when he prayed the Lord said to him, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you...." It's not you Samuel; "...they have rejected Me from being king over them." (8:7) Now what is a theocracy? I told you, but I want to make sure that you understand. A theocracy is when God is the ruler, that's a theocracy. When a king is a ruler that's a monarchy, okay. When the people rule that's a democracy. All right, so we live in a democracy that elects a President. A monarchy is a rule of a king over the people, and it's the king or whoever gets the king's throne that determines who's going to rule over the people. A theocracy is God being

king over us. Now remember these are the days of judges and remember how the days of judges are described for us in Judges and you can go just to the very last verse. It says, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25) So they were not obeying God and living under His theocracy, although they should have been; but they also didn’t have a king. Now, they just had judges that ruled over them, and the judges were raised up by the theocracy. God raised up the judge. In Judges 2 it says this: “And God was with the judge all the days of his life.” (Judges 2:18) So God appointed the judge, and yet the ultimate ruler was God. Now they’re saying, hey, we don’t want God as our king anymore. We want a human king. And then God goes on and He’s telling Samuel about the people. Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt, even to this day, in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods, so they are doing to you also. In other words Samuel, you’re grieved and you’re experiencing what I’ve experienced. I mean they have just gone and they have served other gods, when there was only to be one God and that was the one and only sovereign ruler of all the universe. So God continues to speak to Samuel. And this is what He says in verse 9: “Now then, listen to their voice....” All right, now we have seen that phrase twice. We’re going to see it again. Let’s mark it. Pick a color and just color it that way. So go back to verse 7 and this is what inductive study is all about. It’s slowing down; it’s observing the text; it’s finding out who is speaking, to whom are they speaking, who’s involved, what are they speaking about? God is saying to Samuel, verse 7 “...Listen to their voice...” Verse 9; mark it again: “Now then, listen to their voice; however you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.” (8:9) Okay, you’re saying that you want a king. You’re saying you want to be like other nations. You’re asking for it; you’re insisting on it. It’s not God’s will. It’s not God’s best, because God’s will is that it be a theocracy. God’s best is that He rules. But they want it; so

He says okay, listen to them. Give them what they want. But before you do, let them know what the procedure of the king is going to be like. Warn them; warn them. All right now, we're marking king, so you would mark in verse 9: "Tell them of the procedure of the king..." mark king there, "...who will reign over them." So Samuel spoke all the words of the Lord to the people who had asked of him a king. There you go, you're marking it. You say I'm not marking it; I don't want to mark my Bible. O, you want to mark your Bible; you just don't know you want to mark your Bible. You say, but I'm afraid I'm going to mark it wrong. You're not going to mark it wrong. It's to be like a comfortable old bathrobe that's your favorite cozy thing to put on, that just welcomes you in the morning and you spend those hours and it's like a friend that wraps you up. It's okay, because this book is to be your companion. But if you don't want to mark it, remember all you have to do is go to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com) and download it and there we have the text, and it's the text that I'm reading, the New American Standard. Okay, so get your colored pencils, let's go. Verse 11: "And he said, 'This will be the procedure of the king...', underline it, "...who will reign over you: he...." He who? He, the king, "...will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots." (8:11) Okay, so you're going to lose some of your sons to the king. Just want you to know that, if this is what you're asking for, I want you to know the ramifications of your requests. Verse 12: "And he..." the king, "...will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvests and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots." (8:12) In other words, hey, he's going to take you and you're going to work for him. He's going to put you among his horsemen and you're going to work for the king. Verse 13: "He will also take your daughters..." not just your sons, "...but he will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers." (8:13) What we have to remember is a king is ruling and he's not answerable to anybody. He

should be answerable to God. And if he's a wicked king, I mean he's going to be mean and he's going to be hard and he's just going to take what he wants. I mean study history, watch some good historical films and you will see what happens when a king is in control and that king is a wicked king, and what he does, and how everything is for him. Now he goes on to say, verse 14: "He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give them to his servants." (8:14) Well we're going to stop there for today, but I want you to keep reading. What I want you to see is this: The king will take the best from you. And listen beloved, when you want something that is not of God, then that will take the best from you instead of being the best for you. And when you get what you want, 'cause you stomped your feet and you said you had to have it and you couldn't live without it, when you get what you want it's going to kind of make you sick to your stomach. He'll give you the desire of your heart, but it brings leanness to your soul. Beloved, you don't want to miss the next program because we have far more to say on this vital subject.