

**“Settling For Second Best”
I Samuel 8**

Leadership Crisis (7:15-17, 8:1-3)

- *Ch. 8 is 30-plus years after Mizpah victory (7:15-17 = summary)
- *Samuel judged well (7:13, 12:3-5). He is about 65 near 1051 BC.
- *Samuel’s sons are a tragic irony after growing up in Eli’s house!
Problem = Good home, bad kids: Saul, David, Solomon, Hezekiah

Leadership Change = People’s Answer (4-5)

- *What could the people have proposed as a solution here?
- *What peer pressure was Israel under to desire a monarchy?

Leadership-Change Pessimism = God’s Answer (6-18)

- *God and his prophet are upset because the. . .
 - king solution slights Samuel (8b and ch. 12 defense by Samuel)
 - king solution naively sees a monarchy as safer and easier.
 - king rationale is one of envy (“like the nations”--5, 20; whereas God wanted the reverse--Deut. 7:6, 18:9, 14.)
 - king solution subs king for God (“rejected me” vss. 7, 12:19,20)
 - king solution will be costly: “He will _____” (11-18). This list is descriptive vs. prescriptive, as seen by vs. 19 response.

Leadership-Change Optimism = People’s Answer (19,20)

- *They still reaffirm conviction kings are safer and more conventional.

Leadership Change Allowed = God’s Answer (21,22)

- *God allows the monarchy. Is He surprised by this? See Dt. 17:14-20, Gen. 49:10. Most likely timing / poor attitude is the biggest issue here.

*Does God let us do what He knows is not best for us? Hos. 13:11
What does God expect after making poor choices? 12:14, 15, 21-25
Can blessing still come while struggling through results of poor choices?*