

I. Israel’s Demand for a King Shows Our Desire for Conformity (8:1-9)

A. Israel rejected the judgeship of Israel in order to conform to the ways of the surrounding nations (vv. 1-6)

1. Concern over Samuel’s sons (vv. 1-2)
2. Desire for “a king to judge us like all the nations” (v 5; also see Deuteronomy 17:14)
3. Samuel’s reaction in prayer (v 6)

B. God grants Israel’s request for conformity (vv. 7-9)

1. The Israelites are rejecting God and His Appointed Ruler, Samuel, the last judge (vv 7-8)
2. Samuel obeys God’s voice to warn the people (v 9)

II. God’s Warns the Israelites of the Dangers of Conformity (8:10-18)

A. Be careful what you ask for! Samuel speaks for God as he tells them what a king will do (vv 10-17)

1. He will put men in the infantry (v 11)
2. He will conscript men to supply food and munitions for him and his army (v 12)
3. He will draft women to prepare food (v 13)
4. He will raise taxes (vv 14-15)
5. He will require military service of employees (v 16)
6. He will take from the flocks and enslave his people (v 17)

B. Beware of the dangers of a king! He will cause you to cry out to God, who will not listen (v 18)

III. The Israelites Foolishly Choose Conformity (8:19-22)

A. Outright disobedience—the people say “No” to Samuel (vv 19-20)

B. Sealing the deal—Samuel bears witness before God of the people’s folly (vv 21-22)

IV. Jesus, the True King, Calls Us to a Life of Non-Conformity

- A. A mixed bag—the history of the kings of Israel shows the perils of conformity
- B. Pointing ahead—1 Samuel points us to Revelation 15 and the True King; One who died for our sins to reconcile us to God (Ephesians 2)
- C. Countercultural Christianity—the True King calls us to be non-conformists (Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 1:13-14)