

# SAMUEL

Samuel Leads Repentance; Israel Demands a King  
1 Samuel 7-8

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# Repentance & Confession

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# 1 Samuel 7:3

Three Key Phrases for  
True Repentance

1. “If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart”
2. “Direct your heart to the LORD”
3. “Serve Him only”

# Repentance

Their Understanding is  
Different than Ours

- More than sorrow/remorse
- Radically turning to God as truly God
- National repentance; not about a single sinful act

Mizpah

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# Confession & Repentance in Samuel

Three Portraits of Repentance

1. Samuel leads national repentance at Mizpah (7:5-6)
2. King Saul's disingenuous repentance (15:24,30)
3. King David after sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam 12)

# Facing the Philistines Again

## SAME THINGS

- A familiar enemy: the Philistines
- There is no king
- The same generation of the same people

## DIFFERENT THINGS

- Led by righteous Samuel instead of Eli's sons
- “We have sinned against the LORD” 7:6

# Here I Raise My Ebenezer

- Contrast with ch. 4
- A stone marker
  - Jacob at Bethel (Gen 28:16-22)
  - Moses (Ex 24:4)
  - Joshua at the Jordan (Josh 4:1-9)
  - Joshua at Shechem (Josh 24:25-26)

*Here I raise my Ebenezer  
Hither by thy help I've come  
And I hope by thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wand'ring from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood*

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# Transition from Judges → Monarchy

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# Samuel the last great judge

Unlike the judges the preceded him, Samuel:

- judges on a more permanent basis
- judges a larger jurisdiction (home base in Ramah)
- passes leadership on to a king
  - Samuel's sons, Joel & Abijah are unrighteous and unjust
  - Dynasties never work in Israel

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# Monarchy: in God's will or no?

Genesis 7:6/16 "...kings shall come from you/her"

Genesis 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet..."

Exodus 19:6 "...and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests  
and a holy nation."

Numbers 24:17-19

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

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# Samuel's warnings 8:11-18

TAKE & SERVE

Your sons

Your daughters

The best of your fields, vineyards and orchards

A tenth of your grain

Your servants, donkeys, flocks

“...and you shall be his slaves”

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# A rejection of God

## Israel seeks to change their identity:

From the covenant people of God, informed by Torah, led by divinely ordained judges.

They tire of being unique.

**“Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.”**

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# A bad request made badly

1. *sinful in motive* they desire to be like “all the other nations” (8:5,20)
2. *selfish in its timing* God wasn't opposed to an Israelite monarchy, but Israel demands a king *now*
3. *cowardly in spirit* constant threats from surrounding enemies wore on Israel; they fail to comprehend their apostasy always precedes their military failures