

THE KING WHO GIVES

1 Samuel 8:1–22

In 1 Samuel 8, Israel asks for a king “like all the nations,” revealing a temptation that still confronts us today: to trust what we can see rather than the God we cannot. The people were drawn to human leadership—Samuel’s aging authority, the failures of his sons, the stability and power of surrounding nations—because it promised security, predictability, and control. Yet human rulers are fallible: they take, they exploit, and they fail. Even the best leaders eventually show cracks, and every system built on human strength alone will disappoint. This passage challenges us to see the difference between visible, fragile leadership that takes and the invisible, faithful rule of God, who provides, sustains, and defends His people. It calls us to walk by faith, not by sight, and to learn to trust in the unseen King rather than the rulers we can measure and manage.

Human Leadership—Visible but Fallible

Samuel’s Sons 8:1–3, 5

God’s Prophet 8:1, 4–8

Israel’s Elders 8:4–5, 20–22

Humanity’s Kings 8:7, 9–20

Divine Kingship—Invisible but Faithful 8:5, 8; cf. 7:12–17

Trust God’s Unseen Rule, Not Human Powers!