1 SAMUEL 8-11

ISRAEL'S FIRST KING

Chapter 8 Israel Demands A King

Summary: Unhappy with Samuel's dishonest sons, and fearful of an impending conflict with the Ammonites [12:12], the Israelites desire a king. Knowing they are really rejecting His leadership, God reluctantly grants their desire **(1-9)**, warning them of the great cost of a king **(10-22)**.
Lesson: *Refusing God's best can be very costly.*

Chapter 9 Saul Is Chosen As King

Summary: Saul and his servant seek the lost donkeys of Saul's father. After much searching they inquire of God's prophet, Samuel **(1-14)**. Samuel says the donkeys are found, and God is calling Saul **(15-27)**.
Lesson: *Why do we inquire of God only after exhausting our own efforts?*

Chapter 10 Saul Becomes King

Summary: Samuel privately anoints Saul as king **(1-16)** and then publicly proclaims him as king before the people of Israel [1050 B.C.] **(17-27)**.
Lesson: As *Christians we are anointed as "kings and priests" (Rev. 1:6).*

Chapter 11 Saul Saves Jabesh Gilead

Summary: When the Ammonites threaten Jabesh Gilead in eastern Israel, Saul demonstrates courage. He gathers an army of 330,000 and totally defeats the enemy **(1-11)**. Saul demonstrates forgiveness when given an opportunity to retaliate against his detractors **(12-15)**.
Lesson: *Christians exhibit the godly qualities of courage and forgiveness.*