When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba.

But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."

Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day."

But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us.

Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD. The LORD answered, "Listen to them and give them a king." Then Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Everyone go back to his town."
OBSERVATION #1:
Israel’s conviction has turned to compromise.

OBSERVATION #2:
Israel’s compromise is rooted in the age old lie, ‘Did God really say?’

Genesis 3:1
Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’

Romans 1:25
they have “exchanged the truth of God for a lie.”

OBSERVATION #3:
Israel has no idea what they are asking for… and the confusion they are in for.

Genesis 17:6
“I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.”
Indeed, the portrait of kingship that Samuel paints appears to be an authentic description of the semi-feudal Canaanite political structure as it existed prior to and during the time of Samuel. He objects that having a king like “all the other nations” is not what Yahweh has in mind. Such an unchecked human institution will become militaristic, conscript Israelite men (even women!) into military service, confiscate property, and lead ultimately to enslavement (8: 11-17).

The theme words of Samuel’s warnings about kingship are “take” and “serve”. Ancient Near Eastern kingship is parasitic rather than giving… Nothing seems beyond the grasp of the king, whether children, personal property, or one’s freedom. Kings take and take, and when everything is gone, they force you to serve. The final indignation, “you yourselves will become his slaves” (8:17).

APPLICATION #1: Base your convictions on God’s truth

APPLICATION #2: Cultivate your convictions

APPLICATION #3: Commit yourselves to leaving a Godly legacy
Joshua 24:14-15
“Choose” whom you will serve...

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”