

## **THE BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL:**

### **SHILOH AND ITS ATTENDANTS (ELI AND HIS SONS)**

Shiloh was the central religious sanctuary where all the chief priests resided. At that time when Samuel was born, Eli was the chief priest at Shiloh.

Eli was expected to execute religious duties of the covenant faith in Israel. Eli was being helped by his sons Hophni and Phinehas since he was growing old.

His sons Hophni and Phinehas brought religious decadence (sinfulness) in Israel and made it difficult for Israel to retain her religious glory.

In so doing, Hophni and Phinehas lost touch with Yahweh and started experiencing a bad time.

Out of their religious misconduct, the visions of the Lord became very rare. God became very annoyed and that's why he rejected Eli as the chief priest, punished his sons with death for their severe misconduct.

### **REASONS WHY ELI (ELI'S FAMILY) WAS REJECTED**

#### **Study Questions:**

1. Account for the rejection of Eli and his family by God as judges of Israel?
2. Justify God's rejection to Eli's family?
3. "It was Eli's failure to consult God that God rejected him and his family"  
Comment
4. The rejection of Eli and his family was inevitable. Comment
5. Comment on the circumstances that necessitated the rejection of Eli and his sons as judges of Israel.

Eli entrusted priesthood to his sons yet they were not worthy leading to the rejection of Eli himself and his sons.



Hophni and Phinehas played sex with the women who worked at the altar which defiled Yahweh's temple leading to Eli's rejection and his family.

Hophni and Phinehas used vulgar language at the place of worshipping Yahweh causing the rejection of Eli their father and themselves.

Hophni and Phinehas were corrupt favouring the rich Israelites who brought fatty sacrifices and ignored the poor Israelites who brought birds which angered Yahweh causing the rejection of Eli and his sons.

Eli's sons were greedy especially during the times of sacrifice when they rushed to slaughter fatty animals hence showed a high degree of greed of their own desires instead of fulfilling God's duties hence Eli's rejection and his family.

Eli's sons ate parts of the meat which belonged to Yahweh on were delicious hence abusing the rules concerning sacrifices in the nation of Israel leading to the rejection.

Hophni and Phinehas fought for the sacrifices brought by the people to Yahweh which was a shaming and left worshipers wondering whether their sacrifices were welcomed by Yahweh led to Eli's rejection and his family.

Hophni and Phinehas ate the meat when it was half cooked which expressed a high degree of greed and led worshipers to complain to Yahweh hence the rejection.

Eli's sons used to abuse Eli their father and minimizing him in public which was contrary to Israel's law regarding respect to parents leading to the rejection.

Eli left his sons in the service of Yahweh as priest yet they refused to change hence their rejection with Eli himself although he was innocent.

God told Eli to do something about his sons but he failed hence losing his priesthood together with his sons.

Eli failed to pray to God to forgive him and give him control over such a sinful situation at Shiloh hence his rejection together with his sons.

Hophni and Phinehas failed to follow the example of their father who had



served God faithfully as a priest hence their rejection.

Hophni and Phinehas mixed the worship of Yahweh with Baalism which was contrary to the Israel's law of worship no God but me hence their rejection along with their father.

Hophni and Phinehas lacked spiritual purity given their sexual immorality hence their rejection together with their father by Yahweh.

Eli's sons could not receive and interpret visions from Yahweh due to their immoral life hence Yahweh rejecting them as mediators between him and his people.

Eli's sons were drunkards taking alcohol in Yahweh's temple hence misled God's chosen people of Israelites leading to their rejection.

Eli became too old to perform his priestly duties efficiently yet were disgracing hence his rejection and his disgracing sons.

**NB:**

**Reason for Eli's family rejection:-**

Eli made his sons priests

Hophni and Phinehas used vulgar language

They played sex with women

They were corrupt

They were greedy

They ate part of the meat belonging to Yahweh.

Shiloh became a centre of immorality hence was no longer worthy for God's existence.

Hophni and Phinehas fought for sacrifices

They ate half cooked meat

They used to abuse their father

They refused to change



They did not follow the example of their father.

They worship Yahweh together with Baal

They lacked spiritual purity

They were drunkards

Eli became too old

Eli failed to pray for forgiveness from Yahweh

Eli left Hophni and Phinehas in priesthood yet they refused to change

God told Eli to do something but he failed

They intimidated worshipers who brought sacrifices by using force to pick the big parts.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF THE MISCONDUCT OF THE ELI'S SONS**

God rejected Eli and his sons as priests in Israel hence he no longer accepted their service and sacrifices.

Visions of God became rare since Yahweh no longer appeared to Eli and his sons.

God called Samuel to the office of priesthood since God no longer appeared to Eli and his sons.

God called Samuel to the office of priesthood to rectify the mistakes committed by his family.

The Israelites were made to be defeated and embarrassed at war with the Philistines.

The covenant which was a sign of God's presence among the Israelites was captured by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:9)

The lifespan of Eli's family was to reduce from generation to generation.

Eli's daughter-in-law produced a child whom the attendant gave a name which showed that the glory of God had departed from Israel.



The family members of Eli were to die of violent deaths.

All the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were to be killed by the Philistines at the battle front (1 Sam 4:7)

When Eli learnt of the death of his sons Hophni and Phinehas he also died of shock (1 Sam 4:17)

Since Hophni and Phinehas had no respect for God, they were not to be respected and were to be highly troubled seeing their privileges being given to another family.

Eli's daughter-in-law died when giving birth.

King Solomon removed the descendants of Eli from serving as priests of Israel.

Eli's family was to be subjected to extreme poverty. They would have to beg for food.

### **What do religious leaders learn from God's (Yahweh) rejection to Eli's family?**

They should obey God and be faithful to him unlike Hophni and Phinehas who disobeyed Yahweh by messing up his temple.

They should bring good results in God's places of work unlike Hophni and Phinehas who brought shame in Yahweh's temple.

They should respect God's places of worship unlike Hophni and Phinehas who had played sex at the entrance of the temple.

They should discipline their children unlike Eli who failed leading to his rejection.

They should advise their children to show a good example to others.

They should avoid corruption.

They should live holy lives.



They should be polite to the people they lead.

They should serve God uprightly to avoid being replaced.

They should avoid giving offices to their immoral children in case of their mistakes.

## **SAMUEL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MONARCHY.**

### **CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL**

Samuel was born into an Ephraimite family of Ramah whose parents were Elhanah and

Hannah. The name Samuel means "I asked the Lord for him"

The circumstances in which Samuel was born and grew up show that he had been set apart by God as a chosen servant.

#### **The following are the circumstances that led to his birth:-**

Hannah's faith led to Samuel's birth, where in her prayers she promise to give back the child to God if she was to have one.

Eli's blessings led to Samuel's birth, where Eli blessed Hannah on realizing that Hannah was not drunk but simply pouring her problems onto God.

Hannah's prayer to Samuel's birth, where she cried to God at Shiloh bitterly that Eli even came to believe that she is drunk hence God granting her prayer.

Eli's blessings led to Samuel's birth where Eli blessed Hannah on realizing that she was not drunk but simply pouring her problems onto God.

The need for a military commander in Israel led to Samuel's birth since the Amalekites and Philistines were constantly attacking Israel.

Eli the chief priest at Shiloh had grown old yet his sons Hophni and Phinehas had not respected Yahweh and the priestly office.

Hannah's misery and pain/agony led to the birth of Samuel since it caused her to pray to God hence God responding to her faithful request.



Peninnah's provocation to Hannah made her life more miserable and uncomfortable hence God giving her a child in order to bring order and comfort in Eli's life.

The collapse of the spiritual life of Israel led to the birth of Samuel since Israelites had adopted syncretism yet there was no strong religious leader.

The rejection of Eli's family led to the birth of Samuel since God decided to make a replacement by calling a person who will serve as a priest and a judge.

The political and moral decay in Israel led to the birth of Samuel since this sinfulness made Yahweh's visions rare hence the birth of Samuel so that God could have a prophet to communicate to.

The weak and wicked judges of Israel led to the birth of Samuel since judges like Samson lacked charismatic leadership.

The Philistines threatened to overrun Israel militarily hence the birth of a military commander in the name of Samuel to lead Israel.

The declining unity of Israel as a nation led to the birth of Samuel so that he takes on the task of reuniting the 12 tribes of Israel.

Hannah's promise to God led to Samuel's birth when she promised God that if she gives her a son she will dedicate him to Yahweh.

## **THE CALL OF SAMUEL (1 Samuel 3:1)**

In those days when Samuel was serving the Lord under the direction of Eli the priest, there were very few messages from the Lord.

One night when he was sleeping and Samuel was also sleeping in the temple where the covenant box was kept, the Lord called Samuel and he answered "Yes sir" running to Eli and told him you have called me here I am.



Eli told Samuel to go back to bed because he did not call him.

Samuel slept and again he had a voice where he ran back to Eli but Eli told him to go back and sleep.

Samuel was for a third time running to Eli and now Eli realized that it was the Lord calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel to go back to bed and when he had heard the voice again he was to respond that **“speak Lord your servant is listening”**.

The Lord called Samuel and told him he was going to do something terrible to the people of Israel and everyone who hears about it will be surprised.

God promised that he had told Eli that he was going to punish his family forever because his sons had spoken evil things against God.

God told Samuel that Eli knew what his sons were doing but he never stopped them.

God declared to Eli’s family that no sacrifice or offering was to remove the consequences of their terrible sin.

After that Samuel slept again and the following day he was scared of giving the message to Eli.

Eli asked Samuel what God had told him but Samuel was fearing to give him the message.

Eli scared Samuel that God would punish him if he kept anything untold.

At that note Samuel told Eli everything and in response Eli said **“he is the Lord, he will do whatever seems best to him”**.



## LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE CALL OF SAMUEL

### What do modern Christians learn from the call of Samuel?

Christians should respond positively to God's call just as Samuel responded positively to God's call.

They should be obedient to God just as Samuel was obedient to God and delivered God's message to Eli.

They should condemn people just as God announced his condemnation against Eli's family through Samuel in the call.

They should be exemplary just as Samuel showed a good example while carrying out his duty at the temple when God called him.

They should live a holy life just as Samuel lived a holy and that's why God appeared to him in a vision.

They should deliver God's message without fear or favour unlike Samuel who had feared to deliver.

They should listen to advice of elders just as Samuel listened to Eli's advice and delivered God's message without keeping anything untold.

They should be humble before God just as Samuel humbled himself when he heard the voice calling him.

They should respect God's house.

They should consult religious leaders in case of uncertainties just as Samuel kept running to Eli.

They should co-work with others just as Samuel co-worked with Eli during his call.

Modern Christians should be ready to serve God at all times just as Samuel was ready when God called him to serve.

They should do God's work daily as Samuel was serving the Lord at the temple daily.

### **Study Questions...:**

**Analyse the call of Samuel in Israel to serve as a priest (describe the call of Samuel).**

**Give an account of the call of Samuel to be a prophet in Israel? (describe the call of Samuel)**

**Examine Samuel's call (1 Sam 3:1)**

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF SAMUEL'S CALL TO THE ISRAELITES**

### **Questions**

- 1. Assess the significance of the call of Samuel in the history of Israel?**
- 2. To what extent was the call of Samuel to be a judge and a prophet significant in Israel's history?**

The call of Samuel gave Israel a prophet who would warn the Israelites about God's coming judgment like when he announced God's judgment to Eli's family.

The call gave Israel a priest who always mediated between Yahweh and the Israelites especially during the time of worship as outlined in the regulations concerning priests in the book of Leviticus.

It gave Israelites a priest who offered sacrifices to Yahweh on behalf of Israel. Such sacrifices were accepted by Yahweh leading to harmony and



peace in Israel.

The call gave Israel a charismatic leader leading to Yahweh's visions which were rare in Israel to be reflected again from time to time.

The call gave Israel a judge who settled conflicts ranging from land to other social conflicts.

The call gave Israel a military leader who commanded Israelites during times of military crisis out of his leadership skill

.It gave Israel a priest who encouraged repentance in Israel. Out of his advice, theocracy was revived where Israelites included Yahweh in all their social, political and religious life.

The call gave Israelites a leader who acted as a mediator linking the Israelites to Yahweh and Yahweh to the Israelites.

The call gave Israel a seer who assisted the Israelites community in solving local problems like later when he helped Saul to recover his father's lost donkeys.

The call gave Israel a king maker whom God ordered to anoint kings in Israel hence anointed Saul as the first king of Israel and David his successor.

The call gave Israel a spokes man of Yahweh who delivered Yahweh's message to Israel like when he delivered Yahweh's message of the rejection of Eli's family.

The call gave Israel an intercessor who would plead on behalf of the Israelites through prayer whenever Yahweh wanted to punish them.

The call gave Israel a religious leader who guided them towards the covenant faith emphasizing the importance of observing and following the ten commandments and other laws of God.

## **SAMUEL'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ROLES IN ISRAEL**

**Questions:**

**1. Assess the role played by Samuel in the political, social and economic life of Israel?**

**Samuel played the following political, social and economic role in Israel:-**

Samuel acted as a prophet who would warn the Israelites about God's coming judgment like when he announced God's coming judgment to Eli's family.

Samuel mediated worship in Israel following regulations laid down in the book of Leviticus.

Samuel offered sacrifices to Yahweh on behalf of Israel which were accepted by Yahweh leading to harmony and peace in Israel.

Samuel was a charismatic leader who led Israel without fear of anybody making Yahweh's visions which were rare in Israel to be reflected again from time to time.

He was a judge who settled conflicts ranging from land to other social conflicts in Israel.

He was a military leader who commanded Israelites at war and during times of military crisis using his leadership skills.

He encouraged repentance in Israel out of his advice theocracy was revived

where Israelites included Yahweh in all their social, political, religious life.

**However, negatively Samuel played the following social, political, economic role in Israel:-**

Many times Samuel was rude to Saul which was undermining Saul's kingship especially when Saul messed up in the war with the Amelekites.

Samuel over supervised Saul and made his freedom to take personal decisions.

Samuel attempted to make the office of priesthood hereditary by making his sons Abijah and Joel replace him as priests.

Samuel identified the covenant box which had been captured by the philistines but he never attempted to bring it back to Israel.

Samuel delayed to offer sacrifices when King Saul and the Israelites were going to fight the philistines which made Saul impatient and he offered the sacrifice causing Saul's rejection by God.

He was power hungry since when the Israelites demanded for a king he was not happy because he had appointed his sons to replace him as judges.

He was unforgiving since when Saul disobeyed God and asked Samuel to pray for him, he never responded positively.

## **GOD'S PROPHECY TO ELI'S FAMILY THROUGH SAMUEL**

**study Questions:**

**Examine God's message to Eli the chief priest and his family through Samuel?**

**Analyse God's judgment in the house of Eli?**

**Assess the prophecy that God sent to Eli's family through Samuel?**

God told Samuel during the call that Eli's family was to no longer serve him as priests in Israel.

God said to Samuel in the call that he would cut the strength of Eli's servants and no one of them would live up to his old age.

God said that those of Eli's family who would survive his destruction would become blind and hopeless.

God said that Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas would die on the same day.

God said that he was going to rise up another leader as a priest to replace Eli's family.

God said that those who would survive in Eli's family could become beggars for food and money for surviving.

God said that Eli's descendants would be filled with envy on looking at another man enjoying their former privileges.

God said that he had rejected the sacrifices given to him by Eli's sons.

God said that time was coming when he would kill the young man in Eli's family and clan.



God said that he would no longer respect those who disrespect him but would respect only those who respect him.

## **WHY ISRAEL DEMANDED FOR A KING**

The Israelites were influenced by the neighbouring nations which had physical human kings. Hence they wanted to be like other nations.

Samuel as a judge was getting too old. The Israelites therefore wanted someone to take on his responsibility.

Samuel had appointed his sons Abijah and Joel to succeed him yet they were corrupt and disliked by the Israelites hence demanding for a king.

Samuel had made the office of priesthood hereditary by appointing Abijah and Joel his sons yet they did not follow his example hence the elders of Israel asking God through Samuel to have a king.

At this time, the Philistine threat was too much hence the Israelites wanted Samuel to lead them against their enemies.

Israelites wanted a king to unite them as a nation and make them to be a strong political nation.

The God of Israel was invisible hence they wanted a leader whom they would physically see and talk to face-to-face.

Israelites wanted a king so that he makes immediate decisions and responses to their problems. This is because the priests who were serving as God's agents would take a long process consulting God first.

Israel's neighbouring nations like Syria, Philistine, Tyre, Assyria were economically prosperous hence Israelites wanted a king to lead them



to economic prosperity.

The Israelites had forgotten their unique nature as a special people of God under God's leadership hence this decline in their faith and morals led to their demand for a king.

Priests and judges in Israel had shown some weaknesses in their duties and therefore lost confidence in them hence demanding for a king.

To the Israelites, demanding for a king did not mean denying Yahweh's leadership but simply wanted a change in their political life.

Israelites had a natural pride and there is no way they thought they could have been seen as a prominent people in the region if they had no king to lead them.

They also thought that they had a big role to play as God's mediators in the world as agents of a Messianic nation.

Israelites felt that peace could easily be achieved with a king amidst them this demanding for a king.

Israelites felt that they needed to be respected more by the neighbouring nations especially when they believed that their king would be stronger than the king of the neighbours.

Israelites wanted a king to mobilize them for trade with neighbouring nations like other kings were doing in their nations around.

Israelites had forgotten that their defeat in wars was a result of their own leaders as we hence demanding for a king to lead them in a war.





## EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT LED TO ISRAELITES' DEMAND FOR A KING

### Questions:

To what extent was Israel's demand for a king a result of external factors?

"It was the external influence that led to Israel's demand of a king"  
comment?

To a greater extent Israel's demand for a king was as a result of the following external factors:-

Israel wanted a king to be like neighbouring nations which had kings hence an external factor. Israel's neighbouring nations like the Philistines were a threat hence demanding for a king to end the Philistine threat which was an external factor.

Israel's neighbouring nation was prospering economically hence demanding for a king to prosper like neighbouring nations.

Kings in neighbouring nations were making immediate decisions and responses to their people's problems hence demanding for a king to make immediate decisions and responses to their problems like their neighbours.

Israel's neighbours appeared victorious at war hence demanding for a king to lead them to success at war. Israelites always suffered defeat from their neighbours at war hence demanding for a king to lead them to victory at war against their neighbours.

Israel's neighbouring nations appeared united under a king hence demanding for a king to lead them to unity as a nation.

Neighbouring nations had kings who could talk to them face-to-face unlike Israel whose God was invisible as a leader hence demanding for a physical leader.

Neighbouring nations were seen as prominent nations with pride under kings hence Israel demanding for a king to gain the same prominence and pride.

Kings in neighbouring nations organized their people for trade with other nations hence Israel demanded for a king to mobilize them of trade as well.

Israel's desire for respect from the neighbouring nations made them demand for the king so that other nations could give them more respect under the king.

## **INTERNAL FACTORS THAT LED TO ISRAELITES' DEMAND FOR A KING**

**However to a lesser extent Israel's demand for a king was a result of the following internal factors:-**

Samuel as a judge had grown old.

Samuel appointed his sons Abijah and Joel as priests yet they did not follow his example.

Samuel had made the office of judge hereditary.

Priests and judges had shown some weakness in their duties.

Israelites wanted to change their political life.

They wanted a king who could bring peace.



They thought that they had a big role to play as God's mediator to the world.

Israel had forgotten that their defeat in wars was a result of their own leaders.

Israelites had forgotten that they were a theocratic nation.

Israelites had lost faith in Yahweh who had been their king.

Samuel's sons were corrupt as judges i.e. Abijah and Joel.

### **To what extent did Samuel's sons cause the Israel's demand for a king?**

To a lesser extent Samuel's sons caused the Israelites demand for a king as follows:-

Joel and Abijah failed to follow their father's example. These made the Israelites lose trust in them as priests hence demanding for a king.

Joel and Abijah asked for money from the Israelites to do their priestly role. This annoyed them hence demanding for a king.

Samuel making Abijah and Joel judges meant that the office of priesthood was hereditary something Israelites did not welcome hence demanding for a king.

### **However other factors other than Abijah and Joel greatly influenced Israelites to demand for a king as follows:-**

Samuel grew old

Israel wanted a king to be a mediator between them and God.

Israelites wanted to be like neighbouring nations with kings.

Israelites wanted to be like neighbouring nations which were prospering economically.

Kings were giving immediate decisions and responses in neighbouring nations.

Neighbouring nations were successful at war with kings.

Israel suffered defeat from neighbouring nations which had kings.

Neighbouring nations appeared united under kings.

Israel desired respect from neighbouring nations hence thought with a king they would acquire that respect.

Israel wanted to be a nation of prominence and pride.

Israel wanted a king they would meet face-to-face.

They wanted a king to lead them to trade with other nations.

### **Questions:**

**To what extent were internal factors responsible for Israel's demand for a king?**

To a lesser extent, internal factors were responsible for Israel's demand for a king as follows:-

Joel and Abijah asked them for money

Joel and Abijah were corrupt

Samuel had grown old

Samuel had made priesthood hereditary by choosing Joel and Abijah

Joel and Abijah did not follow their father's example.

They wanted a king to be a mediator between them and God.

Israel wanted a king they would meet face-to-face.

Joel and Abijah were unrepentant.

Hophni and Phinehas had earlier on disappointed Israelites and priest.

Israelites wanted a king to unite them.

They wanted a king to give them immediate response and decisions to most of their challenges



Israelites were tired of Yahweh as their invisible leader

Yahweh's visions some times delayed to come as solutions to challenges Israelites were facing.

**However to a greater extent internal factors were responsible:-**

It was in God's plan that they had to demand for a king in Canaan.

The Israelites were facing the philistine threat under Goliath

Israel's neighbouring nations were led by a king at war

Israel felt they would be respected by other nations which also had kings.

Israel wanted a king to lead them in trade with other nations

Israel neighbouring nations were defeating them at war without a king.

## **SAMUEL'S RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S DEMAND FOR A KING**

Samuel reacted to this disappointing demand for a king by turning to God in prayer.

Samuel expressed his disappointment and warned the Israelites of the likely dangers of the king.

Samuel was not happy with the Israelites demands for a king since the demand for a king challenged the kingship of Yahweh over Israel.

He was not happy with the demand since it was a rejection of the theocratic leadership of Yahweh yet at Mt. Sinai they had accepted Yahweh as king.

He was not happy with their demand since it showed the Israelites had not appreciated all the Lord had done for them.

He was not happy with their demand since it showed that the Israelites were influenced by the pagan nations and yet they had been warned

against this influence.

He was not happy with their demand since it was a rejection of his sons whom he had appointed as judges.

He was not happy for their demand since it was provoking God's anger as it showed rejection of God's rule and leadership.

He was not happy for their demand of king since he foresaw the dangers that would come with the human king like over taking of Israelites.

He was not happy with the demand since kings would create wars and bring/lead to bloodshed.

He was not happy with their demand for a king since it exposed the weaknesses of his sons and therefore his weakness as a parent.

He was not happy with their demand since it showed him as a weak leader hence he was annoyed.

### **Questions:**

**Account for Samuel's negative response to the Israelites demand for a king.**

**Justify Samuel's negative response to the Israelites demand for the king?**

Israel's demand for a king challenged the kingship of Yahweh over Israel leading to Samuel's negative response to their demand.

Their demand for a king was a rejection of the theocratic leadership where Israel's leader was to be Yahweh.

Israel's demand for a king showed that Israel had not appreciated what the



Lord had done for them especially in Egypt and this led to Samuel's negative response to their demand.

Their demand for a king showed that Israel had been influenced by pagan nations and this caused Samuel to respond negatively to their demand.

Their demand showed that Israel had rejected Samuel's sons he had appointed as judges and as a human being Samuel negatively responded to their demand.

Their demand would provoke God's anger since it was a sign of rejecting him and his leadership hence Samuel negatively responding to their demand.

Their demand for a king would bring dangers in Israel like Israel focusing on a human leader and totally forgetting Yahweh.

Their demand would bring a king who would promote wars which would lead to high loss of lives of the people of God.

Their demand exposed the weakness of Samuel's sons Joel and Abijah as judges and this led to Samuel's negative response.

Their demand exposed Samuel as a weak judge hence responding to them negatively.

Their demand exposed Samuel as a judge who had grown too old to carry out his duties in Israel and this made him to respond negatively to their demand.

Their demand showed Samuel's weakness as a parent whose sons Joel and Abijah had been rejected as judges hence responding them negatively.

## **SAMUEL'S WARNINGS TO THE PEOPLES' DEMANDS FOR A KING (1 Sam 8:10-18)**

Samuel told the Israelites that a king was to force their sons into the army so that they serve as military men.

He told them that a king was to take the Israelites into forced labour.

He told the Israelites that a king they were demanding was to promote wars which would lead to high loss of life in Israel.

He told them that a king was to take Israel's daughter to work for him as maids.

He told the Israelites that a king was to oppress and exploit them yet Yahweh had rejected exploitation and oppression of an Israelite by a fellow Israelite.

He told them that a king they were demanding was to promote injustice in Israel.

He told them that the king they were demanding was to grab the Israelites property such as land and take it as his own.

He told them that the king they were demanding was to promote injustice in Israel.

He told them that the king they were demanding was to promote nepotism and favouritism among Israelites.

He would give high positions in office to his relatives and those he liked.

He told them that a king they were demanding was to promote syncretism where Israelites would end up worshiping Yahweh alongside Canaanite Gods.

He told them that a king they were demanding was to promote apostasy in



Israel where Israelites would end up rejecting Yahweh totally as their leader.

He told them that a king they were demanding was to murder innocent Israelites.

He told them that a king they were demanding was to lead people astray and turn away from the covenant faith hence misleading the people of God.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD KING IN ISRAEL**

A king was to be chosen by Yahweh and was supposed to be anointed with oil.

A king was supposed to be an Israelite and not a foreigner.

A king was supposed to be anointed of God hence had to be a messiah and his duties were given by God himself.

A king was supposed to be a representative of Yahweh on earth among the Israelites.

A king was supposed to be loyal to the covenant and the covenant faith.

A king was supposed to acknowledge that his authority comes from God.

A king was supposed to give spiritual guidance to the Israelites and also lead them to the covenant faith.

A king was supposed to protect people of God the Israelites.

A king was not allowed to marry a foreign woman.

A king was not supposed to have a large number of horses for his army.

A king was not supposed to marry many women since they would turn him away from God and the covenant faith.

**Question:**

**“Samuel’s anger towards Israel’s demand for a king was due to his personal interests” discuss?**

Its true that Samuel’s anger towards the peoples’ demand for a king was due to the following personal interests:-

Samuel had made his sons to be judges so he thought they were being rejected.

He thought he was being rejected because of old age which was a personal interest.

Samuel said that the peoples’ request would divert their minds from God yet here he was hiding his personal interest.

The demand showed him as a weak leader hence he became unhappy which was a personal interest.

He made his sons to serve as judges hence he did nit loose his sons as judges which was a personal interest.

The demand exposed the weakness of Samuel’s sons as judges hence responding to it negatively as a personal interest.

The demand exposed his weaknesses as a parent whose sons were weak judges hence his negative response to it as a personal interest.

**However his anger (negative response) was caused by other factors as follows:-**

Israel was a theocratic nation.

The demand showed rejection of God.

The demand was a sign that Israel was no longer holy.

The demand was a sign of lack of appreciating what God had done for Israel.

God had all along chosen leaders of his choice to lead his people.

Samuel had seen how the Canaanite kings mistreated the people.

Israel was a chosen nation so special to God that Samuel did not want foreign influences to mix up with it.

**(a) Discuss Samuel's warnings against Israel's demand for a king.**

**(b) To what extent were these warnings fulfilled during the reign of Israel's kings?**

**To a greater extent, these warnings were fulfilled during Israel's reign of kings as follows:**

Many Israelites became king's servants running before and after their chariots.

Kings grabbed land of the Israelites like king Ahab took Naboth's vineyard.

Kings took wives of the Israelites like king David took Bathsheba Uriah's wife.

Kings mistreated the Israelites through forced labour like king Solomon made Israelites work as slaves on building his palace.

Kings forced Israelites to pay heavy taxes which they used to spend on their luxurious life

Kings put fellow Israelites in charge of forced labour like Solomon put Adoniram in charge of charging taxes on Israelites.

Kings made fellow Israelites their slaves.

Kings married many women hence took Israelites daughters as their wives e.g. King Solomon had 700 wives.

Israelites were made to contribute to the feeding of the king's daily palace needs.

Kings led Israelites away from God by following the gods of their foreign wives.

**However, kings led to economic prosperity in Israel as follows:-**

Kings formed armies that defended Israel and brought military victory against their enemies. They united Israelites into one nation like King David brought together Israelites of the South and the North.

Kings promoted monotheism in Israel like King David made Jerusalem a capital of religious worship.

Kings expanded Israel's boundaries especially David in the wars he fought with the neighbours.

