



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Who is your King?	SPEAKER	DSP Low Kok Guan
THEME	Encountering God	DATE	11 & 12 Apr 2026

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

There is a throne in each of our hearts, but you might not know who actually sits on it. Do you know who your king is? Who has the final say over your life? Who do you give your allegiance to? Who is in charge of your life? If God truly is your king, you will look to Him, listen to Him, and let Him lead.

1 Samuel: Transitions

The text of 1 Samuel 8:1-22 is a narrative, or a story, of Israel's transition from the rule of judges to kings. As a narrative, we can examine it in 4 steps.

1. Setting: Request (v1-6)

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders in his place (as judges). However, they were not godly. Not only did the people not want Samuel's sons to lead due to their ungodliness, but they also requested for a king instead of judges.

2. Problem: Rejection (v7-8)

Samuel felt that the people had rejected him, but God corrected and comforted Samuel. It was God that they had rejected as king. It was not the first time they had done so, and indeed God had predicted this event in Deuteronomy 17:15a.

3. Solution: Reply (v9-18)

Samuel warned the people on the drawbacks of a king - the king would take and not give. Furthermore, if they insisted on having a human king, God would not relieve them from the consequences of this choice.

4. Conclusion: Results (v19-22)

Despite the warning, the people still demanded a king, refusing to listen to God and Samuel. They wanted a king to lead them and fight for them, which God had been doing. However,

they did not want God to be their king. God told Samuel to obey the people. They would get what they asked for, including the consequences.

Why do we want God to be our king? He loves us, is in control, and wants what is best for us.

When God is your King, you will...

1. Look to your King

The people rejected God and turned to a human king. In contrast, when Samuel felt rejected and displeased, he chose to turn to God, and God comforted him.

When you are feeling down or when something goes wrong, who do you turn to? Do you look first to your assets and your ability to solve the problem? Or do you look to God?

2. Listen to your King

Even though Samuel was displeased, he appointed a king just as God said.

We need to listen with the intent to obey. We need to read the Bible to hear God's voice.

Are you listening to what God is saying to you?

3. Let your King lead

A human king may not have been the best leader for Israel, but Samuel listened to God and let Him lead.

Now, we have Jesus as our king! Unlike other kings, He did not come to take but to give and to serve (Matt 20:28).

Examine yourself. Do you want to do things your way? Ensure that as you proclaim Jesus as King, He is really King in your heart.

CONCLUSION

Many things compete for our attention and affections; from work, ambition, pleasure, hobbies and even addiction.

The choice is yours.

Choose to let God reign as King over every area of your life.

QUESTIONS

1. Think about your current daily routine. If a stranger observed your life for a week, who or what would they conclude is the "king" of your time and energy?

2. In verse 7, God tells Samuel, "It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king." Why do you think human beings often prefer a tangible, visible "king" (like a person, a job, or a bank account) over an invisible God?

1. The sermon mentions that Samuel's first instinct when he was displeased was to pray (v6). What are your own tendencies when you face disappointments or crises? What are some habits you can develop to help you learn to listen to the voice of God and turn to God as a first move, not a last resort?