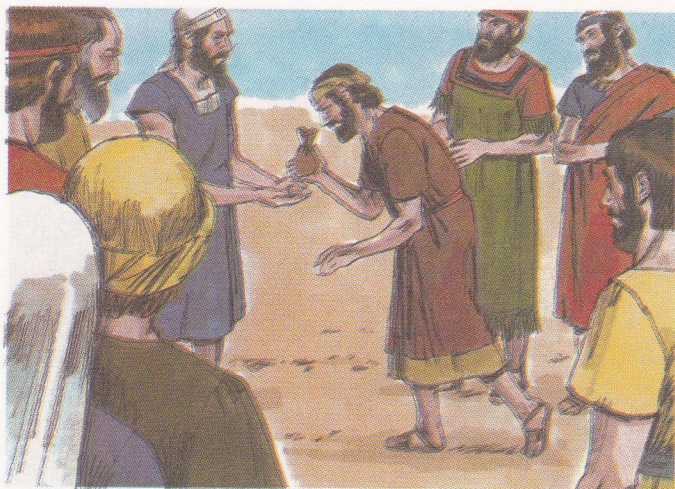


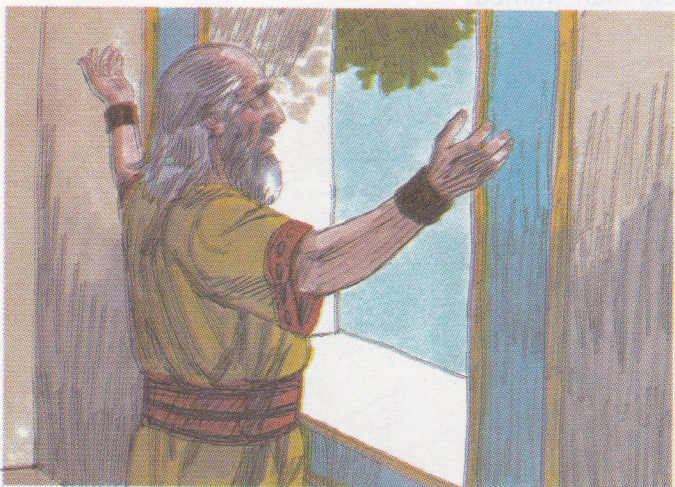
# The Israelites Demand a King



**1** When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges. Unfortunately, his sons were not honest judges but were willing to take bribes.



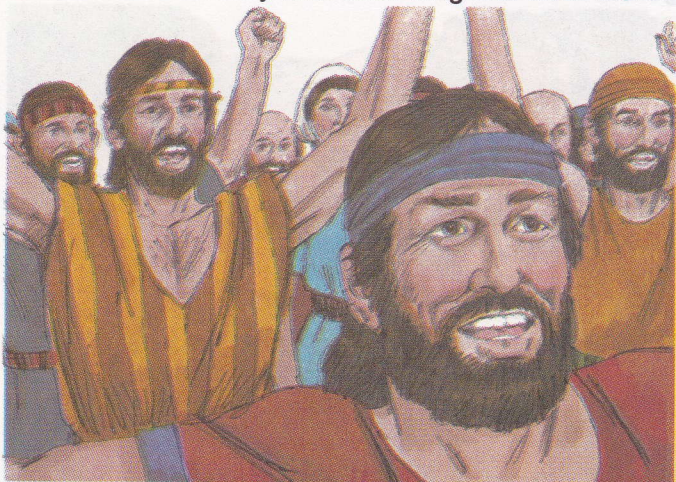
**2** Because of this, all the leaders of Israel came to Samuel and said, "Look, you are getting old, and your sons are not good men. So appoint a king to rule over us, as in other countries."



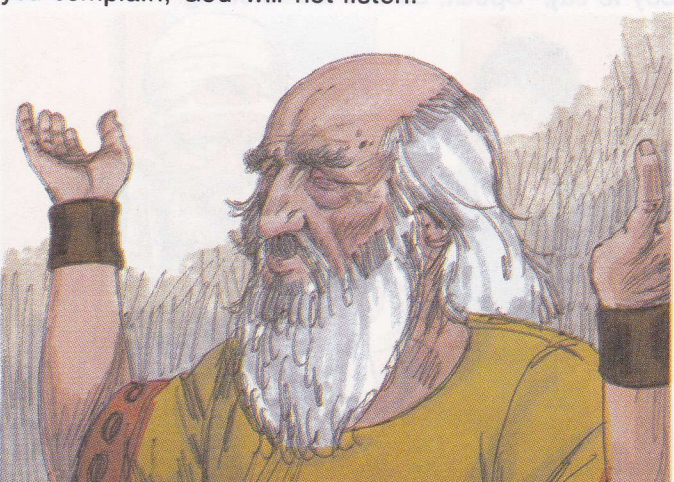
**3** This request made Samuel unhappy, so he prayed about it. The Lord answered him: "It is not you they are rejecting, but me. So listen to them, but warn them clearly how their king will treat them."



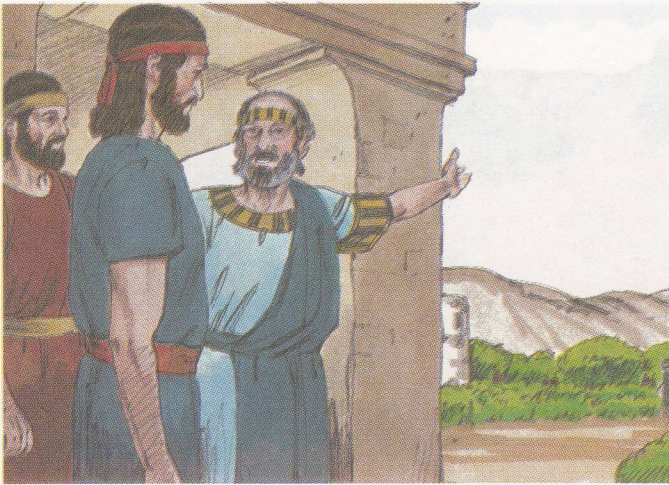
**4** Thus Samuel warned the people: "Your king will make your children work for him and will take your animals and land and crops for himself. But when you complain, God will not listen."



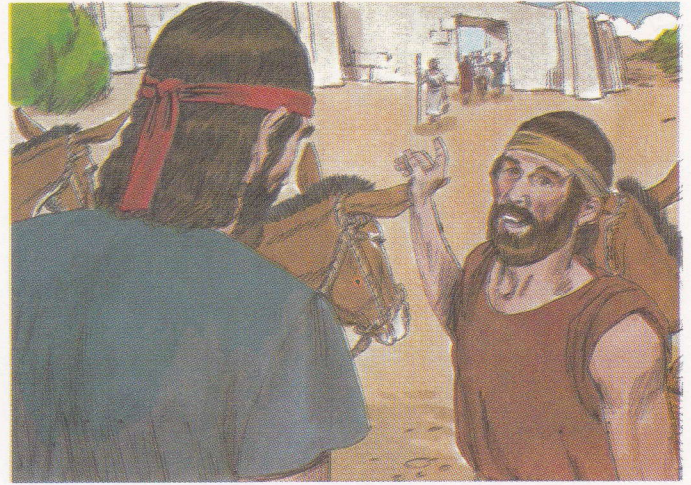
**5** Yet the people paid no attention. "We want a king to rule us and lead us in war, so that we will be like other nations," they insisted.



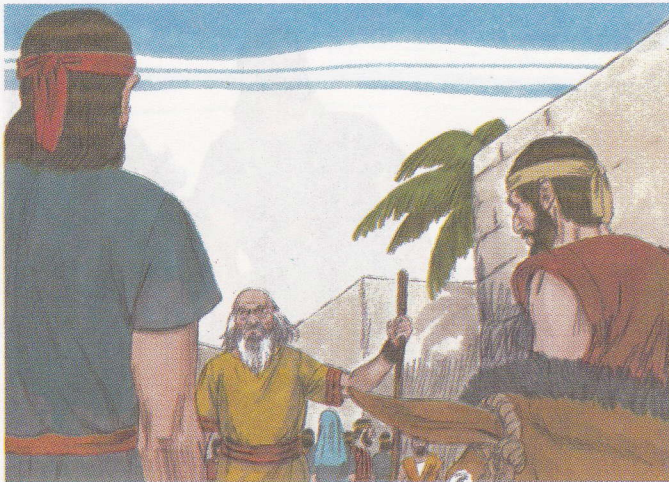
**6** After Samuel had listened to everything they had to say, he reported it to the Lord. Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Do what they want and give them a king."



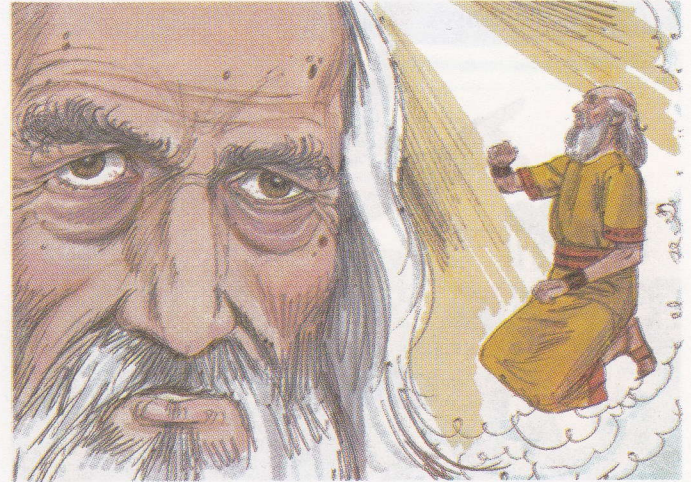
**7** One day some donkeys belonging to Kish, a rich man of the tribe of Benjamin, wandered off. So he said to his tall, good-looking son Saul, "Take a servant and go look for my donkeys."



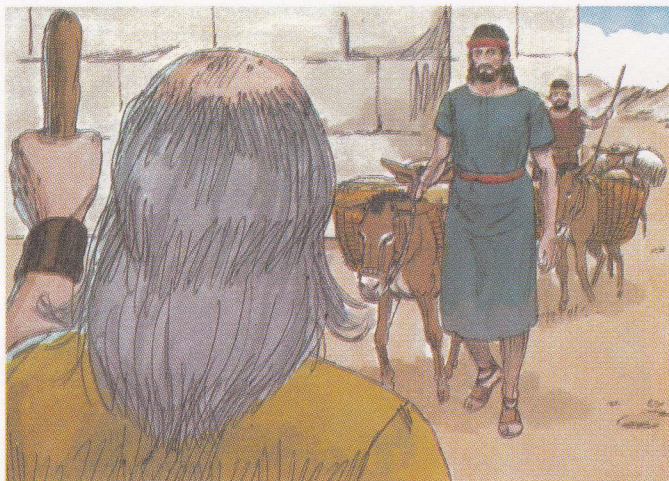
**8** Saul and the servant searched for a long time but could not find the donkeys. They were about to go back when the servant said, "There is a holy man in this town. Maybe he can help us."



**9** Two girls at the edge of the town told them the prophet had just arrived to offer a sacrifice and hold a feast. As they entered the town, Saul and his servant met Samuel.



**10** Now the day before, the Lord had said to Samuel, "Tomorrow I will send you a man from the tribe of Benjamin. Anoint him as ruler of Israel. He will rescue my people from the Philistines."



**11** When Samuel saw Saul, he heard the Lord say, "This is the man who will rule over my people." Samuel told Saul that his father's donkeys had been found.



**12** Then Samuel said to Saul, "Who is it that the people of Israel want so much? It is you!" Saul did not understand these words, but Samuel promised to explain everything the next morning.