As we have looked at the thirty previous essential passages, we have seen that God has revealed his power and character to us by doing many miracles on behalf of his people.

Some examples:
Empowering Moses to lead his people out of Egypt after years as slaves ------Ex. 6-12
The parting of the Red Sea to allow the people to escape from the Egyptians ------Ex. 13-14
The fall of the walls of Jericho as the people entered the Promised Land ------Joshua 5 & 6
Gideon defeating 135,000 Midianites with an army of 300 men ------Judges 6 & 7

But we find in our passage today that after all of these miracles the nation was spiritually bankrupt.

1 Samuel 8:1-3 (NLT) As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. 2 Joel and Abijah, his oldest sons, held court in Beersheba. 3 But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice.

Because of the failure of Samuel’s sons, the people ask for a king.

1 Samuel 8:4-9 (NLT) Finally, the leaders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. 5 “Look,” they told him, “you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king like all the other nations have.” 6 Samuel was very upset with their request and went to the Lord for advice. 7 “Do as they say,” the Lord replied, “for it is me they are rejecting, not you. They don’t want me to be their king any longer. 8 Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually forsaken me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment. 9 Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about how a king will treat them.”

The key thing to notice here is that the motivation for making the request was to reject God.

God’s plan for his people was perfect and because they rejected him and his plan, he had Samuel warn the people about what would happen when they replaced him with a human king.

1 Samuel 8:10-18 (NLT) So Samuel passed on the Lord’s warning to the people. 10 “This is how a king will treat you,” Samuel said. “The king will draft your sons into his army and make them run before his chariots. 11 Some will be commanders of his troops, while others will be slave laborers. Some will be forced to plow in his fields and harvest his crops, while others will make his weapons and chariot equipment. 12 The king will take your daughters from you and force them to cook and bake and make perfumes for him. 13 He will take away the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his own servants. 14 He will take a tenth of your harvest and distribute it among his officers and attendants. 15 He will want your male and female slaves and demand the finest of your cattle and donkeys for his own use. 16 He will demand a tenth of your flocks, and you will be his slaves. 17 When that day comes, you will beg for relief from this king you are demanding, but the Lord will not help you.”
Saul’s reign as king ended in **disaster**.

1 Samuel 28:16-19 (NLT) But Samuel replied, “Why ask me if the Lord has left you and has become your enemy? ” The Lord has done just as he said he would. He has taken the kingdom from you and given it to your rival, David. “The Lord has done this because you did not obey his instructions concerning the Amalekites. ” What’s more, the Lord will hand you and the army of Israel over to the Philistines tomorrow, and you and your sons will be here with me. The Lord will bring the entire army of Israel down in defeat.”

**Conclusion**

This is an essential passage for us in 2015 because each of us must choose who will be **king** of our life. Our choice is often either **ourselves** or another **person** or God.

Many of us are like Saul, we try our best but our **judgment** is terrible, and our attempts at **spiritual leadership** are misguided.

Saul’s **mistakes** did not lead to **humility**. He never asked God for help, but rather grew more **self-centered**.

When we try to be king of our own life, we discover what Saul discovered: Trying to defend a **false image** and maintaining a **spiritual fiction** is deadly.