

Scripture Readings

*The first Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **1 Samuel chapter 8, verses 4-20**, which can be found on page **310** in the **old testament** of your pew bible...*

⁴So all the elders of Israel met, and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, ⁵'You are now old and your sons do not follow in your footsteps; appoint us a king to govern us, like other nations.' ⁶But their request for a king to govern them displeased Samuel, and he prayed to the Lord. ⁷The Lord answered Samuel, 'Listen to the people and all that they are saying; they have not rejected you, it is I whom they have rejected, I whom they will not have to be their king. ⁸They are now doing to you just what they have done to me since I brought them up from Egypt: they have forsaken me and worshipped other gods. ⁹Hear what they have to say now, but give them a solemn warning and tell them what sort of king will govern them.' ¹⁰Samuel told the people who were asking him for a king all that the Lord had said to him. ¹¹'This will be the sort of king who will govern you', he said. 'He will take your sons and make them serve in his chariots and with his cavalry, and will make them run before his chariot. ¹²Some he will appoint officers over units of a thousand and units of fifty. Others will plough his fields and reap his harvest; others again will make weapons of war and equipment for mounted troops. ¹³He will take your daughters for perfumers, ¹⁴cooks, and confectioners, and will seize the best of your cornfields, vineyards, and olive-yards, and give them to his lackeys. ¹⁵He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage to give to his eunuchs and lackeys. Your slaves, ¹⁶both men and women, and the best of

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your cattle and your asses he will seize and put to his own use. ¹⁷He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. ¹⁸When that day comes, you will cry out against the king whom you have chosen; but it will be too late, the Lord will not answer you.' The people refused to listen to Samuel; 'No,' ¹⁹they said, 'we will have a king over us; ²⁰then we shall be like other nations, with a king to govern us, to lead us out to war and fight our battles.'

*The first New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Mark chapter 3, verses 20-35, which can be found on page 46 in the new testament of your pew bible...***

²⁰and once more such a crowd collected round them that they had no chance to eat. ²¹When his family heard of this, they set out to take charge of him; for people were saying that he was out of his mind. ²²The doctors of the law, too, who had come down from Jerusalem, said, 'He is possessed by Beelzebub', and, 'He drives out devils by the prince of devils.' ²³So he called them to come forward, and spoke to them in parables: 'How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand; ²⁵if a household is divided against itself, that house will never stand; ²⁶and if Satan is in rebellion against himself, he is divided and cannot stand; and that is the end of him. ²⁷On the other hand, no one can break into a strong man's house and make off with his goods unless he has first tied the strong man up; then he can ransack the house. ²⁸I tell you this: no sin, no slander, is beyond forgiveness for men; ²⁹but whoever slanders the Holy Spirit can never be forgiven; he is guilty of

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eternal sin.’³⁰ He said this because they had declared that he was possessed by an unclean spirit.³¹ Then his mother and his brothers arrived, and remaining outside sent in a message asking him to come out to them.³² A crowd was sitting round and word was brought to him: ‘Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.’³³ He replied, ‘Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?’³⁴ And looking round at those who were sitting in the circle about him he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers.³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother, my sister, my mother.’

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.