

**We Want a Donkey!**  
**We Want an Elephant!**  
**September 7, 2008**  
1Sam 8:1-9  
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Synopsis:

It's election season, in case you haven't noticed. How do we make biblically informed decisions regarding candidates and issues? This is the topic for the next five weeks. We'll be looking at the election from a biblical perspective, specifically from 1Samuel, where the people of Israel lobby to choose a king.

**I.**

**Our Request**

1Sam 8:6 "Give us a king to govern us!"

Donkey! Obama!  
Elephant! McCain!

Two conventions the last two weeks!

-Denver                      Obama and the MLK speech  
-Minneapolis              Hockey Mom and the speech

Two groups proclaiming the rightness of their platform

How do we make biblical decisions in an election season?

Bible in Our Hands, Engaging Current Issues: Handout

(Show on screen and reverse direction)

Describe  
Compare  
Do

**II.**

**Their Request**

1Sam 8:5 "Appoint for us a king . . . like the other nations"

Context:

11<sup>th</sup> cen BC

injustice:

Eli and sons (2:12-17)

Samuel and sons (8:1-3)

Philistines

Age: Samuel getting older (8:4-5)

Tribal versus Monarchy (8:4-5)

Request: "Give us a king like the other nations"

For them this meant:

-Reject Yahweh as king (Psalms proclaim)

-Nationlike King, associated with idolatry

-Compromise: Tricky Dicky or Slick Willie

-Oppression (8:10-18)

What did Samuel and Yahweh do? 3fold

Samuel *prays*

Yahweh *talks*

Samuel *acts*

### III.

#### **Implications for Us**

1Sam 8:9 "Show them the ways of the king"

Principles during an election season:

1. Incarnation = God comes and works with us
2. Compromise = All leaders compromise
3. Corruption = Corruption within ourselves and others
4. Derivative Rule = All rule is under God

Where else in the Bible does rule come up?

Deut 17	Criteria for a ruler	
2 Sam 23	Just rule of a leader	(+)
Daniel	Demonic rule of a leader	(-)
Rom 13	Ruler under God	(+)
Rev	Demonic rule	(-)

\*Rule is a mixed bag!

Here's what to do: Pray, talk, act

1. Evaluate ourselves
2. Evaluate leaders
3. Pray over choices

= we are compromised

= they are compromised

= we/they must fit Yahweh rule