HOW JUDGES AND KINGS DIFFER

Dimension	Judges (1 Samuel 1–7)	Kings (1 Samuel 8:10–18)
Source of Authority	Appointed by God on a temporary, as-needed basis; established leadership A judge's office was to fight against enemies and deliver Israel from oppression, and to decide cases brought before them	Hereditary rule; permanent centralized power Kings served as leaders in war and as supreme judges
Military Conscription	Voluntary assemblies of tribes called upon during crises Typically, not leading a battle	Drafts young men to serve as soldiers, charioteers, and horsemen (vv. 11–12) Conspicuous on the battlefield
Labor & Services	No forced labor requirements	Forces sons and daughters into specialized labor (plowing, harvesting, making weapons, perfumers, cooks, bakers) (vv. 12–13)
Property & Wealth Rights	Respects individual tribal land inheritances	Power to confiscate the best fields, vineyards, and olive groves to give to royal officers (v. 14)
Taxation & Tribute	Voluntary tithes/offerings given to the sanctuary/priests	Mandatory 10% tax (tithe) on grain, harvests, and flocks (vv. 15, 17)
Servitude of the People	Citizens remain free landowners under God's law	Citizens effectively become servants/slaves to the crown (v. 17)
Recourse for Grievances	Direct prayer to God, who raises a deliverer	God will not answer when the people cry out against the king they chose (v. 18)