

## 1 Samuel (Sh'mu'el Alef)

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### Chapter 12

**1 And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me and have made a king over you.**

**2 And now, behold, your king walks before you. I am old and grayheaded, and, behold, my sons are with you, and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.<sup>1</sup>**

**3 Behold, here I am; witness against me before the LORD and before his anointed. If I have taken anyone's ox or if I have taken anyone's ass or if I have defrauded anyone or if I have oppressed anyone or if I have received a bribe from anyone to blind my eyes,<sup>2</sup> I will restore it you.**

**4 And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us nor oppressed us; neither hast thou taken anything of any man's hand.<sup>3</sup>**

**5 And he said unto them, The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day that ye have not found anything in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.**

**6 ¶ Then Samuel said unto the people, The LORD is he who advanced Moses (Moshe) and Aaron (Aharon) and who brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.**

**7 Now, therefore, stand still that I may contend with you before the LORD of all the righteousnesses of the LORD which he did to you and to your fathers.<sup>4</sup>**

**8 After Jacob had entered into Egypt and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron who brought forth your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.**

**9 And when they forgot the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera (Sisra), captain of the host of Hazor (Hatzor) and into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the king of Moab (Mo'av), and they fought against them.**

**10 And they cried unto the LORD and said, We have sinned because we have forsaken the LORD and have served the Baalim and Ashtaroth, but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.**

**11 Then the LORD sent Jerubbaal (Yeruba'al) and Bedan (B'dan)<sup>5</sup> and Jephthah (Yiftach) and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelt safe.**

**12 And when ye saw that Nahash, the king of the sons of Ammon, came against you, ye said unto me, No, but a king shall reign over us when the LORD your God was your king.<sup>6</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel has, throughout his life, been mindful of his calling to be consecrated to the Lord, not just in public, but in all of his private dealings.

<sup>2</sup> Blind the eyes – put on a pretence of not knowing what was done, or to be in denial about one's own wrongdoing. He did not convince himself that the party who could benefit him the most had a better cause than the other party in the dispute.

<sup>3</sup> There aren't many who can say this of themselves, and it is evident to others, as well, that they have always been honest and upright in their dealings.

<sup>4</sup> When people go astray, we should remind them of the righteousness of God and His goodness to them, so that they will turn back and get on track with God.

<sup>5</sup> Copyist error; the Septuagint and the Syriac reads Barak.

**13 Now, therefore, behold the king whom ye have chosen and whom ye have desired! Behold, the LORD has set a king over you.**

**14 If ye will fear the LORD and serve him and hear his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigns over you continue following the LORD your God.**

**15 But if ye will not hear the voice of the LORD but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD shall be against you as it was against your fathers.**

**16 ¶ Now, therefore, stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.**

**17 Is it not wheat harvest to day?<sup>7</sup> I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain<sup>8</sup> that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great which ye have done in the sight of the LORD in asking for a king over you.**

**18 So Samuel called unto the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.<sup>9</sup>**

**19 And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy slaves unto the LORD thy God that we not die, for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask for a king over us.**

**20 And Samuel said unto the people, Do not fear. Ye have done all this wickedness, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;**

**21 do not turn aside after vain things which cannot profit nor deliver, for they are vain.**

**22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake because it has pleased the LORD to make you his people.**

**23 Moreover as for me, in no wise should I sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you,<sup>10</sup> but I will teach you the good and the right way.**

**24 Only fear the LORD and serve him in truth with all your heart,<sup>11</sup> for consider what great things he has done with you.<sup>12</sup>**

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<sup>6</sup> This was a prompt for the Israelites' desire for a king, besides Samuel's sons being corrupt. Nahash was on the move, and the Israelites had no confidence in Samuel's sons to lead them into battle. They were probably thinking of how it turned out when Eli's sons went to battle with them.

<sup>7</sup> Wheat harvest was anywhere from the end of April to the middle of June, according to different commentaries. Seldom rains then, but if it does, it pours. There was no indication that there would be rain on this bright, beautiful day; probably not even one cloud in the sky.

Just picture it; a blue sky with no clouds, and then as Samuel prayed, the clouds came, shooting from the horizon and thunderheads mounting up overhead, turning the day grey and cold, before dropping torrents of rain that ruined the wheat. It would be like sheets of water dropping on them, soaking their fine clothes. It was done in such a way to make it obvious to the people that the clouds came supernaturally, in response to Samuel's praying.

<sup>8</sup> God wanted to sober the people up, in midst of all their revelry and rejoicing that they had a king, to remind them that they should not have asked for a king, but been content to have just the Lord rule over them. Sometimes, a party needs to be spoiled.

<sup>9</sup> Saul needed a reminder, in case he was getting giddy with the adulation, that he was king only on sufferance, not because God really wished to give Israel a king. Also this storm reminded him that Samuel was esteemed very highly by God, so he had better honour the Lord's prophet by asking counsel from him and following what he advised, and not do him any harm.

<sup>10</sup> It is a sin to not pray for our brethren in the Body of Christ, and to not pray for one's nation.

**25 But if ye shall persevere in doing wickedly, both ye and your king shall perish.<sup>13</sup>**

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<sup>11</sup> As Jesus said later, that God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth, and to love Him with all our mind, heart, and strength. If we serve Him with all our heart, it spills over into serving Him with all our mind and strength.

<sup>12</sup> Be grateful. Don't forget what God has done for us in the past. Remember all His benefits. Recognize the hand of God in our lives, and don't underestimate the value of what He has done on our behalf.

<sup>13</sup> Saul was warned that being a king does not give a person a special dispensation to sin.