

1 Samuel 12:1-25 **Samuel's Address at Saul's Coronation**

Here is your king

1 Now Samuel said to all Israel: "Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you. 2 And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and gray-headed, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

Samuel challenged the people to witness against him – The Lord is witness

3 Here I am. Witness against me before the Lord and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you."

4 And they said, "You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand."

5 Then he said to them, "The Lord is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand."

And they answered, "He is witness."

History of the Lord delivering Israel in the past

6 Then Samuel said to the people, "It is the Lord who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt. 7 Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord which He did to you and your fathers:

8 When Jacob had gone into Egypt, and your fathers cried out to the Lord, then the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought 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, commander of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them.

10 Then they cried out to the Lord, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.'

11 And the Lord sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety.

12 And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the Lord your God was your king.

Success with your king is subject to your obedience to the Lord

13 "Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired. And take note, the Lord has set a king over you.

14 If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord your God.

15 However, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

Sign of the wickedness of their demand for a king in the eyes of the Lord

16 "Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes: 17 Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the Lord, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may

perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking a king for yourselves."

18 So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

Pray for us to Your God

19 And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves."

Exhortation to follow the Lord – For His Own Name's sake the Lord will not forsake His people

20 Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. 21 And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing.

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, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; 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; for consider what great things He has done for you.

Warning for disobedience

25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Israel was a nation under the rule of God from the time they left Egypt through the time of the Judges for 551 years before they demanded a king, so they would be like the nations around them and have a king to fight their battles for them. [Exodus 12:31 through 1 Samuel 8:5]
- ✧ The Lord said to Samuel, "They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me that I should not reign over them." [1 Samuel 8:7]
- ✧ The process of making Saul king and his acceptance by the people. [1 Samuel 8:8 through 11:15]

Here is your king [1 Samuel 12:1-2]

- ✧ Samuel called the people to Gilgal for the coronation of Saul as king of Israel. [1 Samuel 8:14-15]
- ✧ Saul is now battle hardened, from defeating the Ammonites who came against Jabesh Gilead, gaining the approval of the People of Israel. [1 Samuel 11:1-15]
- ✧ Now Samuel said to all Israel: "Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you. And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and gray-headed, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day. [1 Samuel 12:1-2]
 - ◇ Samuel presented Saul as the king the people of Israel had requested.
 - ◇ Samuel admitted that his sons were with the people of Israel in desiring a king.
 - ◇ Samuel acknowledged that he is old and gray-headed, and had served the Children of Israel from his childhood. [1 Samuel 1:19-28, 2:11, 18-21, 3:1-20]

Samuel challenged the people to witness against him – The Lord is witness [1 Samuel 12:3-5]

- ✧ Samuel challenged anyone to witness against his integrity.
- ✧ The people acknowledged the integrity of Samuel's behavior.
- ✧ They all agreed that God is witness to Samuel's righteousness.

History of the Lord delivering Israel in the past [1 Samuel 12:6-12]

- ✧ Samuel reminded the people of the Lord's faithfulness from the time they left Egypt to the present time.
 - ✧ God has been faithful to deliver Israel for the last 551 years:
 - ✧ When Israel was under great bondage, the Lord raised up Moses and Aaron and delivered them from Egypt and gave them an inheritance in the land of Israel.
 - ✧ Time after time, when Israel rebelled against the Lord, enemies had come and oppressed the people.
 - ✧ When they cried out to the Lord, He sent judges and delivered Israel from the hand of the oppressors.
 - ✧ Now when Samuel is old, they rejected God's rule over them and cried out for a king.

Success with your king is subject to your obedience to the Lord [1 Samuel 12:13-15]

- ✧ Success as a nation is dependant upon the nation keeping the commandments of the Lord.
 - ✧ If the nation follows the commandments of the Lord, they will meet with success in the land of their inheritance.
 - ✧ If the nation rebels against the commandments of the Lord, both the people and their king will come under the wrath of God.

Sign of the wickedness of their demand for a king in the eyes of the Lord [1 Samuel 12:16-18]

- ✧ Samuel called for a sign from the Lord to confirm the accuracy of the warning and to demonstrate that their request for a king was additional wickedness in the sight of God.
- ✧ God responded by sending thunder and rain.

Pray for us to Your God [1 Samuel 12:19]

- ✧ And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves."
 - ✧ The people fearfully acknowledged their wickedness.

Exhortation to follow the Lord – For His Own Name's sake the Lord will not forsake His people [1 Samuel 12:20-24]

- ✧ Samuel assured the people that though their wickedness is great, still the Lord would not forsake His people for the sake of His own reputation.
- ✧ However this is clearly a call for wholehearted repentance and a commitment to faithfully follow the Lord.
 - ✧ Empty things like turning from the commandments of the Lord to idolatry will not benefit you at all.
- ✧ Samuel continued, saying: "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way." [1 Samuel 12:23]
- ✧ Samuel exhorted the people:
 - ✧ Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

Warning for disobedience [1 Samuel 12:25]

- ✧ "But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king." [1 Samuel 12:24]
 - ✧ There is no security in turning from the Lord, but only a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. [Hebrews 10:27]
 - ✧ Having a human king will be of no benefit if the people continue to sin.