

## 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 12

Verses 1- 5

Then Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have listened to your voice for all that you said to me, and I have appointed a king over you. <sup>2</sup> Now, here is the king walking before you, but as for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. And I have walked before you since my youth to this day. <sup>3</sup> Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and His anointed. Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I exploited? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to close my eyes with it? I will return *it* to you.” <sup>4</sup> And they said, “You have not exploited us or oppressed us, or taken anything from anyone’s hand.” <sup>5</sup> So he said to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day that you have found nothing in my hand.” And they said, “*He is witness.*”

<sup>2</sup> Now, here is the king walking before you, but as for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. And I have walked before you since my youth to this day.

Samuel says he is old and gray but he will live for another 37 years.

See chart 1205

**1st Samuel Timeline**

Ch.	Event	Year
8	Israel demands a king	
9	God choses Saul to be King	
10	Saul becomes King	1050
11	Saul rescues the city of Jabesh	1049
12	Samuel is old & gray	
13	Philistines defeated at Mikmash	1048
14	Moab Ammonites Edom Zoba Philistines	1048 - 1026
15	Amalekites defeated and Saul rejected as King	1026
16	Samuel anoints David	1025
17	David kills Goliath	1024
21 - 31	David in hiding for 10 years	1020 - 1010
25	Samuel dies	1011
31	Saul dies	1010

**<sup>4</sup> And they said, “You have not exploited us or oppressed us, or taken anything from anyone’s hand.”**

Samuel was an honest and trustworthy man. Unfortunately his two sons were not and this was one of the reasons they asked for a king.

Did the people think that all of the king’s sons would be good when they took their fathers place? It seems unlikely that they were that naive. In the Southern Kingdom where the family line was continuous only 8 of 19 were good. So how were the people any better off with a king than with a judge?

Verses 6 - 11

**<sup>6</sup> Then Samuel said to the people, “It is the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> Now then, take your stand, so that I may enter into judgment with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord that He did for you and your fathers. <sup>8</sup> When Jacob went 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 settled them in this place. <sup>9</sup> But they forgot the Lord their God, so He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them. <sup>10</sup> They cried out to the Lord and said, ‘We have sinned, because we have abandoned the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth; but now save us from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve You.’ <sup>11</sup> Then the Lord sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and saved you from the hands of your enemies all around, so that you lived in security.**

**<sup>7</sup> Now then, take your stand, so that I may enter into judgment with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord that He did for you and your fathers.**

Samuel pointed out that prior to Israel getting an earthly king God had brought them numerous leaders to save his people from their enemies.

1. The Lord sent Moses and Aaron who brought their fathers out of Egypt.
2. Then the Lord sent Jerubbaal, Bedan (Barak), Jephthah, and Samuel, and saved them from the hands of their enemies all around, so that they lived in security.

See chart 1210

### Judges time line

Chapter	Event/Leader	Time	Enemy defeated
1	Taking Canaan	1375	
2	A new generation	1375 - 1350	
3	Othniel	1350 - 1302	
3	Ehud	1302 - 1204	Moab
3	Shamgar		
4 - 5	Deborah & Barak	1204 - 1144	Canaanites
6 - 8	Gideon (Jerubbaal)	1191 - 1144	Midianites
9	Abimelek	1144 - 1141	
10	Tola	1141 - 1118	
10	Jair	1118 - 1096	
10 - 12	Jephthah	1118 - 1094	Philistines
12	Ibzan	1094 - 1087	
12	Elon	1087 - 1078	
12	Abdon	1077 - 1070	
13 - 16	Samson	1118 - 1078	

Verses 12 - 18

<sup>12</sup> But when you saw that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon was coming against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us!’ Yet the Lord your God was your king. <sup>13</sup> And now, behold, the king whom you have chosen, whom you have asked for, and behold, the Lord has put a king over you. <sup>14</sup> If you will fear the Lord and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not listen to the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the command of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, even as *it was* against your fathers. <sup>16</sup> Even now, take your stand and see this great thing which the Lord is going to do before your eyes. <sup>17</sup> Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call to the Lord, that He will send thunder and rain. Then you will know and see that your wickedness is great which you have done in the sight of the Lord, by asking for yourselves a king.” <sup>18</sup> 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.

**<sup>12</sup> But when you saw that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon was coming against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us!’ Yet the Lord your God was your king.**

The request for a king came in chapter 8 of Judges (1144 BC) but the threat from Nahash came 30 years later in chapter 11 (1114 BC).

See chart 1215

**Judges time line**

Chapter	Event/Leader	Time	Enemy defeated
1	Taking Canaan	1375	
2	A new generation	1375 - 1350	
3	Othniel	1350 - 1302	Aram
3	Ehud	1302 - 1204	Moab
3	Shamgar		Philistines
4 - 5	Deborah & Barak	1204 - 1144	Canaanites
6 - 8	Gideon (Jerubbaal)	1191 - 1144	Midianites
9	Abimelek	1144 - 1141	
10	Tola	1141 - 1118	
10	Jair	1118 - 1096	
10 - 12	Jephthah	1118 - 1094	Ammonites/Philistines
12	Ibzan	1094 - 1087	
12	Elon	1087 - 1078	
12	Abdon	1077 - 1070	
13 - 16	Samson	1118 - 1078	Philistines

The most logical explanation to this problem is that the Ammonites also threatened them during the time of Gideon but that event was not recorded. We need to remember that a lot of bible History is a snapshot of a few events covering many years. The Book of Judges covers 300 years of history in 21 chapters.

**<sup>14</sup> If you will fear the Lord and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not listen to the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the command of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, even as *it* was against your fathers.**

God will only help Israel if the people are faithful to Him. The people know this is true by looking at their own history. When Israel was faithful God blessed them in many ways but when they forsook the Lord then He allowed their enemies to conquer them. This isn't complicated.

**<sup>17</sup> Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call to the Lord, that He will send thunder and rain. Then you will know and see that your wickedness is great which you have done in the sight of the Lord, by asking for yourselves a king.**

**<sup>18</sup> 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.**

Rain during the wheat harvest was like snow in July or August! God gave them a sign that could not have happened by chance. Asking for a king was a big mistake and God wanted the people to know how offensive it was to Him

Verses 19 - 25

**<sup>19</sup> Then all the people said to Samuel, "Pray to the Lord your God for your servants, so that we do not die; for we have added to all our sins *this* evil, by asking for ourselves a king." <sup>20</sup> Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> Indeed, you must not turn aside, for *then you would go after useless things which cannot benefit or save, because they are useless.***

**<sup>22</sup> For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself.**

**<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, as for me, far be it from me that I would sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way. <sup>24</sup> Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. <sup>25</sup> But if you still do evil, both you and your king will be swept away."**

**19 Then all the people said to Samuel, “Pray to the Lord your God for your servants, so that we do not die; for we have added to all our sins *this* evil, by asking for ourselves a king.”**

Asking for a king was sinful, but it was only part of their sinful ways.

**20 Samuel said to the people, “Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.”**

True repentance for sin involves turning back to the Lord with all of our heart.

**21 Indeed, you must not turn aside, for then you would go after useless things which cannot benefit or save, because they are useless.**

This is a reference to the pagan idols and their inability to help in any way.

**22 For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself.**

This is a great promise to everyone that follows God. When we do wrong it will not separate us from God unless we fail to repent.

It is hard from man’s perspective to understand how the Lord can be pleased with such frail beings, but God can not lie and He has clearly told us that He is pleased with those who follow Him.

**23 Furthermore, as for me, far be it from me that I would sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.**

Samuel’s role as a prophet and a Levite in Israel included guiding, correcting and interceding for the people.

**24 Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.**

This is true for all followers of God not just the Jewish people.

**<sup>25</sup> But if you still do evil, both you and your king will be swept away.”**

As we have seen from bible history the Jewish people forsook God and when they would not repent of their sin God allowed Assyria and Babylon to destroy the Jewish nation and take them into captivity.

This has also been true for every nation on earth from creation until now.