

1st Samuel Chapter 12

- God has given Saul and the children of Israel victory over Nahash the Ammonite; they had all re-gathered at Gilgal to renew the kingdom or to have an official coronation ceremony for Saul, they presented peace offerings before the Lord and rejoiced greatly.

V: 1-5 While the nation is gathered together, Samuel takes advantage of the gathering to speak with the people. This is the last public address that Samuel will make, the end of his public ministry – a new leader has been appointed.

- You wanted a king and behold now you have a king, you've received what you asked for.

1 Samuel 8:7 “And the Lord said unto Samuel, hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not rein over them.”

- God had sought to comfort Samuel with these words, but it seems that he still feels the reproach of the people upon his ministry.
- I'm old and gray headed, I've walked before you since I was a small child – If I've ripped anyone off, or if I've taken a bribe or been dishonest – speak up, declare it now before these witnesses and I'll restore it.

Like Jesus, Samuel said:

John 8:46 “Which of you convinceth Me of sin?...”

- The people answer that Samuel has been faithful and honest

1 Peter 5:2-3 “²Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.”

- Samuel has done this, and done it faithfully as unto the Lord.

V: 6-7 Samuel tells the people that it is God who “advanced” or promoted Moses and Aaron to positions of leadership, and by implication himself.

Psalm 75:6-7 “⁶For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. ⁷But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and sitteth up another.”

V: 8-12 Samuel gives them an abbreviated summary of their history, reminding them of God's role in their history.

- The United States has a similar history in the birth of our nation and His blessings to us: The Light and the Glory; by Peter Marshal.

- It's a sad thing when we give credit to our form of government, or to our ingenuity as opposed to giving glory to God. We owe our greatness to God Himself.
- Delivered from these enemies, God has raised up judges: Jerubbaal / Gideon, Bedan / Barak, Jephthah, and Samuel.
- Even while God was your King, you asked for an earthly king – and look there he is, there is what you asked for!

V: 12 When you saw Nahash come against you, that is when you wanted a king – not just that they wanted to be like the rest of the nations around them, but out of fear and their lack of faith, because they didn't believe that God would protect them or deliver them – that is why they wanted a king.

Hebrews 10:38-39 ³⁸Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. ³⁹But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

V: 13 There are two kinds of prayer: "Thy will be done..." & "my will be done" – they are beginning to see the result of the latter.

V: 14-15 If you will fear the Lord, and serve Him, and obey Him, and not rebel against His commandments – then God will give you favor, His hand will be with you – but if not – His hand will be against you – king or no king.

- Samuel is defining what obedience looks like, and He's describing God's grace.
- They've already done the wrong thing; perhaps some of us are in the same boat. Maybe God allowed us to do the wrong thing, we wanted and got that job, maybe we married the wrong person – and we feel like we're in a hopeless situation – they wanted a king and got him – but if they would just serve God, and obey His voice, keep His word, and not rebel against His commandments – then God will bless you and keep you.
- Notice that this, as Samuel states it, begins with the fear of the Lord.

Moses speaking to Pharaoh:

Exodus 9:30 "But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the Lord God."

- Because Pharaoh didn't fear God, he wouldn't be obedient to God either; and we remember what followed as a result.

Moses commanded the children of Israel:

Deuteronomy 8:6 "Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him."

Deuteronomy 10:12

“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”

- Moses is saying and what the prophet Micah would later say; defining what is good, and what the Lord requires of us begins with the fear of the Lord – which is what Samuel is saying

Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

V: 16-19 Stand and see this great thing “which the Lord will do before your eyes.”

- Samuel demonstrates that these things he’s speaking really are come from God.
- Wheat harvest was in June / July – they didn’t usually get any rain after April, Samuel will pray and call thunder and rain down from heaven so they will understand that it was a sin to ask a king of God.

“*That they may perceive...*” – the Holy Spirit is doing the same thing today.

John 16:8-9

“When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9of sin, because they believe not on Me.”

- Basically God is going to help them with their lack of fear for God.
- Notice that there is confession but no repentance; they didn’t renounce Saul as their king.

V: 20-22 As the people express their fear of God, fear of God wiping them out – Samuel responds for them to “fear not” – what about “fear God”? Trust in His character.

Hebrews 10:31

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.”

- Yes you are guilty, you are deserving of destruction – but if you turn and serve the Lord and don’t turn aside from His commandments – you will find that He is gracious and merciful.
- Samuel is truthful, not shying away from the truth.

2 Chronicles 7:14

“If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

- God will not forsake His people for His name's sake as opposed to their righteousness.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 “⁶For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. ⁷The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: ⁸but because the Lord loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

V: 21 Don't be distracted by foolish things that lead to destruction.

- When people turn away from the true and living God – what can they possibly turn to? The un-true and dead gods of this world – turning from the Truth to the lies.

Romans 1:21-22 “²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 “¹⁰And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because thy received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹²That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

- We are pre-wired to worship, we will worship something; if not the True and living God, then the lesser gods of this world which are many – but there is a cost.

Colossians 1:16 & Revelation 4:11 both describe our purpose in life.

V: 22 God will not forsake you for His name's sake.

Psalms 138:2 “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified, thy word above all thy name.”

They were chosen of God, just as we were:

John 15:16 “Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit...”

Ephesians 1:4 “According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world...”

- We are here this morning because God was pleased to make us His people; it is thrilling to know that we are chosen of God.

V: 23 Prayerlessness is not just carelessness, it is sin!

- As a spiritual leader Samuel knows that he is called to prayer, that he would be derelict in his duty if he did not pray for them:
- Samuel was born as a direct result of his mother's prayer; he was known to be a man of prayer.

Psalm 99:6 "Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His name; they called upon the Lord, and He answered them."

The Apostles knew the same truth:

Acts 6:4 "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Connection: prayer 1st and 2nd Word of God:

John 15:17 "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

- Samuel will teach them the good and right way:

Nehemiah 8:5-8 ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; for he was above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up: ⁶And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the Law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and cause them to understand the reading."

V: 24 Exhortation: fear the Lord! (2nd time in this chapter; V: 14)

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil..."

Isaiah 66:5 "Hear the Word of the Lord, ye that tremble at His word."

Why? Because of the great things He hath done!

Psalm 116:12-13 ¹²What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord."

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

V: 25 WARNING: Whenever God warns us about something, we had better listen.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

Hebrews 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.”

- Choices – you can do evil and suffer the consequences:

Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I will have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”