

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead
 - a) Saul had just been crowned King over Israel, and his first test as King presents itself
 - 1) Nahash, king of the Ammonites has come to bring Israel into subjection to him

- II) IT IS BAD ENOUGH: That the Philistines have been thorns in their sides, but now also Ammonites
 - a) AMMONITES: The descendants of Lot, born to him through incest with his youngest daughter
 - 1) Gen 19:36-38 Both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

- III) THE AMMONITES ABIDED: To the south, just east of the Jordan River and by the Dead Sea
 - a) Though related through Lot, they were enemies of the Jews for centuries (1300-100 BC)

- IV) NAHASH (SNAKE): Brought troops from the south into northern Israel,
 - a) He was just east of the Jordan River, about 22 mi. S of the Sea of Galilee
 - 1) There he tried to force the inhabitants of that region into subjection to him

- V) V2 AND NAHASH: The Ammonite answered them *On this condition* I will make a covenant with you
 - a) OUR CONDITIONS: We will humiliate you, and will disable you
 - 1) POINT: Your soldiers will be incapacitated, as they will lose depth perception

- VI) V3-6 THEN: The elders of Jabesh said to him Hold off for seven days that we may send messengers
 - a) They asked for a week, and since he did not expect help to come, he granted it to them
 - 1) This was not mercy, but probably intended to make them ever more dispirited
 - 2) Waiting for a week would cause greater anxiety

- VII) V4 NOTICE: The messengers came to *Gibeah* of Saul and told the news in the *hearing of the people*
 - a) The people of Jabesh Gilead did not yet know that Saul had been crowned
 - 1) V5 Saul is not informed until he comes in from the field, and has to ask what is going on

- VIII) V6-11 THEN: The Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news *and his anger* was greatly
 - a) God's Spirit filled him with *divine indignation* over what was taking place
 - 1) This was a moment when anger was appropriate: God's people were being intimidated
 - 2) Miss California's question in the Miss America contest; *Gay marriage?*
 - 3) Mk 3:1-6 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward." Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. And when *He had looked around at them with anger*, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.

- IX) V7 SO: He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout the territory
 - a) This was a symbolic act intended to communicate urgency and motivate immediate response
 - 1) Notice how he identified himself with Samuel, as he did not have credibility on his own yet
 - 2) This action caused the people to experience a fear of God that motivated prompt action

- I) V8-11 WHEN: He numbered them in Bezek the children of Israel were three hundred thousand

- a) They assembled about 17 miles to the west of Jabesh Gilead, to be counted
 - 1) This number is related to the men who were ready to fight: a militia force of 330,000

- II) V10 THEREFORE: The men of Jabesh said Tomorrow we will come out to you
 - a) This obviously was a lie, intended to keep them from becoming aware of what was taking place
 - 1) The Bible reports, but is not condoning this lie
 - 2) Some think this falls under the *Greater Good*: If the good consequences are greater, then the action is morally proper. If the bad consequences are greater, then the action is morally improper

- III) V11 SO IT WAS: On the next day that Saul put the people in three companies and they came
 - a) Divided up the forces into three companies, and attacked early in the morning
 - 1) They slaughtered the enemy all morning, into the early afternoon
 - 2) NOW: Saul has established himself as a warrior King, and the people acknowledge him

- IV) V12-15 THEN: The people said to Samuel Who is he who said Shall Saul reign over us? Bring
 - a) The people are so enthusiastically recognizing him as king that they want to avenge him
 - 1) WISELY: Saul refuses to exact revenge, and in holding back earns even more admiration
 - 2) Pr 14:29 *He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.*
 - 3) Ro 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

- V) V14-15 THEN: Samuel said to the people Come let us go to Gilgal and *renew the kingdom* there
 - a) In light of this great victory, Samuel calls upon the people to re-confirm Saul as king
 - 1) After their victory, it is a time of celebration and sacrifice
 - 2) KEY: It is also an opportunity to rebuke the nation for rejecting God

- VI) CH 12:1-5 NOW: Samuel said to all Israel Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me
 - a) Samuel now opens his heart to the people of Israel, and speaks openly to them
 - 1) Israel has received a king, and will now listen more closely to the king than to him
 - 2) As such, it is necessary to remind them of what they have actually done

- VII) HIS POINT: I have lived my life openly before you, from the time I was a small child
 - a) I am now old, and my sons are here with me, living amongst you
 - 1) I want to know: have I misrepresented God before you in any way?
 - 2) Have I enriched myself financially through greed, cheating, oppression, or through a bribe?

- VIII) V4-5 THEIR RESPONSE: You have not cheated us or oppressed us nor have you taken anything
 - a) HE SAYS: The Lord is present with us, and is hearing that you have said I am not guilty
 - 1) With this integrity of heart, he now rehearses to them once again their guilt

- IX) KEY: If you have to rebuke somebody, it is always good to be living the message!
 - a) Credibility and respect is earned through a lifetime of faithfulness
 - 1) Titus 2:7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good.
 - 2) 1Ti 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

- I) V6-11 THEN: Samuel said to the people It is the LORD who raised up Moses and Aaron
 - a) To emphasize his point, Samuel rehearses their history to them

- 1) Moses and Aaron were used to deliver the nation from Egyptian slavery
 - 2) Judges were also used: Men like Jerubbaal (Gideon), Bedan (Barak?), Jephthah, and him were used to deliver the people from the hands of their enemies
- II) **THEY HAD BEEN IN BONDAGE:** Because they had *forsaken the Lord*, and were chastened by God
- a) **MERCY:** When they cried out to Him, He sent people to deliver them, though He was the deliverer
 - 1) The result was that peace was once again reinstated, and you could dwell in safety
- III) **V12-15 AND:** When you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me
- a) This is the king you chose and you desired: *he is king by majority vote*
 - 1) You think that the majority opinion is the voice of God
 - 2) **REMEMBER:** The majority wanted Barabbas instead of Jesus
- IV) **V14-15 IF YOU FEAR:** The Lord and serve Him and obey His voice and do not rebel
- a) Two paths are now put before you, each heading in a different direction
 - 1) One is the path of obedience, leading to a sustained relationship with God
 - 2) The other is one of disobedience, leading to God's rejection
 - 3) Dt 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live
- V) **V16-18 NOW:** Therefore stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes
- a) Samuel literally preached up a storm, and God's response caused great fear to fall on them
 - 1) Rain during this season (late May to early June) was highly unusual
 - 2) It caused the people to fear both God and His servant
- VI) **V19-25 AND:** All the people said to Samuel Pray for your servants to the Lord your God that we
- a) Their response was to recognize their own sinful motives, in asking for a king to rule them
 - 1) Samuel gives them words of encouragement and exhortation
- VII) **POINT:** You have done wickedly in asking for a king, and rejecting God
- a) This is not a minor sin, yet God is still willing to work with you and care for you
 - 1) **KEY:** Do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve Him with all of your heart
 - 2) Do not pursue *empty things* that cannot profit eternally, nor save you in difficult times
 - 3) Jer 2:27-28 Saying to a tree, 'You are my father,' And to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, 'Arise and save us.' But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, If they can save you in the time of your trouble; For according to the number of your cities Are your gods, O Judah.
- VIII) **IMPORTANT:** Remember, God loves you with an everlasting love and will not forsake you
- a) Jer 31:3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.
- IX) **V23-25 MOREOVER:** As for me far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray
- a) I am committed to continuing to pray for you, and to teach you until I die
 - 1) **STILL:** You must personally fear Him, and serve Him in gratitude or be swept away with the king