

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh
Saul has been crowned King over Israel, and his first test as King presents itself
Nahash, king of the Ammonites has come to bring Israel into subjection to him
IT IS BAD ENOUGH
- II) The Philistines have been thorns in their sides, but now also Ammonites
WHO WERE THE AMMONITES
- III) The descendants of Lot, born to him through incest with his youngest daughter
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.
- IV) The Ammonites lived to the S, East of the Jordan River and by the Dead Sea
Though related through Lot, they were enemies for centuries (1300-100 BC)
- V) Nahash (snake) brought troops from the south into the north
He was east of the Jordan River, about 22 mi. S of the Sea of Galilee
There he tried to force the inhabitants of that region into subjection to him
- VI) At this time Samuel, the judge, is old so Nahash sees this as a good opportunity
- VII) Jabesh Gilead was isolated, being E of the Jordan
The men of the city desired peace and asked for a treaty
- VIII) V2 Nahash the Ammonite answered them On this condition I will make a covenant
We will make a covenant but we will humiliate you, and will disable you
- IX) We will remove the soldiers right eyes so they will lose depth perception
This will also keep them from using their shields: the left eye would be concealed
It would bring reproach because their military would not be of help to Israel
- X) V3 Then the elders of Jabesh said to him Hold off for seven days that we may
They requested a week: ince he did not expect help to come, he granted it to them
This was not mercy, but probably intended to make them ever more dispirited
Waiting for a week would cause greater anxiety
- XI) V4 The messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and told the news in the hearing of the
The people of Jabesh Gilead did not yet know that Saul had been crowned

- I) The people of Gibeah cried out of sympathy for the people of Jabesh Gilead
- II) V5 Now there was Saul coming behind the herd from the field
Saul is not informed of what is happening and had to ask what was going on
The people then told him what they had heard
- III) V6 The Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news and his anger
God's Spirit filled him with divine indignation over what was taking place
- IV) This anger was appropriate: it was a righteous indignation
Jer 11:20 O LORD of Heaven's Armies, you make righteous judgments, and you examine the deepest thoughts and secrets. Let me see your vengeance against them, for I have committed my cause to you.
- V) Righteous indignation is the proper response to sin or injustice
It is shown by Jesus when He on two occasions, cleansed the temple
God's people were being threatened
- Vi) V7 He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout the
This was to communicate urgency and motivate immediate response
NOTICE
- VII) He identified himself with Samuel, as he did not have credibility on his own yet
There were some who had despised and rejected him (10:27)
- VIII) This caused the people to experience fear of God and motivated prompt action
They were afraid that God would deal harshly if they refused to move
- IX) V8-9 He numbered them in Bezek the children of Israel were **3 hundred thousand**
They assembled about 17 miles to the west of Jabesh Gilead, to be counted
This number is a militia force of 330,000
- X) V9-10 The men of Jabesh said Tomorrow we will come out to you
This kept them from becoming aware of what was taking place
This was obviously a lie
- XI) Some think this falls under **the Greater Good**: If the good results are greater, then the action is judged as morally proper. On the other hand, if the bad consequences are greater, then the action is considered morally improper

- I) There are those who say that the bible condones lying
The Bible is **reporting** what happened, but is not condoning this lie
- II) V11 So it was on the next day that Saul put the people in three companies and they
He divided the forces into three companies, and attacked early in the morning
They slaughtered the enemy all morning, into the early afternoon
THE RESULT
- III) Saul established himself as a warrior King, and the people acknowledge him
- IV) V12-15 The people said to Samuel Who is he who said Shall Saul reign over us?
The people recognize him as king that they wanted to avenge him
- V) Wisely, Saul refuses revenge, and in holding back earns even greater respect
If he would have encouraged them to execute them, he would have lost respect
- VI) His holding back exhibited self-restraint and nobility
Pr 14:29 He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is
impulsive exalts folly.
- VII) V14-15 Samuel said to the people Come let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom
While the people were together Samuel calls them to go to Gilgal
Gilgal was near the Jordan River, east of Jericho
- VIII) When Israel crossed the Jordan to enter the land, they set up a memorial at Gilgal
It is mentioned 39 times, mostly in Joshua
- IX) It is where the Israelites camped after crossing the Jordan (Josh 4:19-5:12)
It was there that they set up 12 memorial stones
It became a center for religious ceremonies and was a base of military operations
- X) In light of this great victory, Samuel called the people to re-confirm Saul as king
After their victory, it is a time of celebration and sacrifice
- XI) It was also an opportunity to rebuke the nation for rejecting God
CHAPTER 12
- XII) V1-5 Samuel said to all Israel Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said
Samuel now opens his heart to the people of Israel, and speaks openly to them
Israel had a king, and will now listen more **closely to the king** than to him

- I) As such, it is necessary to remind them of what they have in fact done
HIS POINT
- II) I have lived my life openly before you, from the time I was a small child
I am now old, and my sons are here with me, living amongst you
THOUGHT
- III) My sons are now men, and they have remained here with me
You rejected them for their sins, and you rejected me in part because of them
- IV) I want you to realize that though they could have left, they remained
With that said, you know I desire you to extend mercy and compassion to them
- V) V3 Here I am. Witness against e before the Lord and before **His anointed**
This is the first time a king is called God's anointed
- VI) I want to know: have I personally misrepresented God before you in any way?
Have I enriched myself through greed, cheating, oppression, or through a bribe?
- VII) V4-5 You have not cheated us or oppressed us nor have you taken anything
The Lord is present with us, and is hearing that you have said I am not guilty
- VIII) With this integrity, he now rehearses to them once again their guilt
APPLICATION
- IX) If you have to correct somebody, it is always good to be living out the message
Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual
restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be
tempted.
- X) Credibility and respect is earned through a lifetime of faithful living
This establishes our ability to bring a word of correction when needed
Titus 2:7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good.
- XI) This is something that is important, especially when you are still younger
1 Ti 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.
- XII) V6-8 Samuel said to the people It is the LORD who **raised up** Moses and Aaron
To emphasize his point, Samuel rehearses their history to them

- I) It was the Lord who raised up Moses and Aaron to deliver from Egyptian slavery
God is your deliverer, and He is the One who sustains and is to lead you
- II) It was God who raised them up, but it was He who saved Israel
Ps 68:20 Our God is a God who saves; he is the LORD, our Lord, who rescues us from death.
- III) V9 When they forgot the Lord their God He sold them into the hand of Sisera
He reminds them of recent history, when they fought Canaanites (Judges 4)
Sisera was the commander of the army under Jabin, king of Canaan
- IV) For 20 years Israel was harshly oppressed by Jabin
They cried out, and God delivered them through the prophetess Deborah
Sisera fled in battle to the tent of Jael, and she killed him with a tent peg
- V) V9 He reminds them of when they had been under the King of Moab
God delivered them once again
- VI) V10-11 They cried out to the Lord and said We have sinned
They were seduced by idolatry: baals and Ashtoreths
- VII) These were Phoenician idols:
Baal was applied to the sun and was a nature god
Worship was sensual and orgiastic, making it attractive to backsliding Israelites
- VIII) Ashtoreths (Astarte) Venus, moon goddess; goddess of fertility and birth; sexual
When they cried out in repentance, God moved to deliver them
Neh 9:27 So you handed them over to their enemies, who made them suffer. But in their time of trouble they cried to you, and you heard them from heaven. In your great mercy, you sent them liberators who rescued them from their enemies.
- IX) V11 And the Lord sent Jerubbaal (Gideon), Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel
Judges were also used: Men like Jerubbaal (Gideon), Bedan (Barak?), Jephthah, and Samuel were used to deliver the people from the hands of their enemies
- X) They had forsaken the Lord, and were chastened by God
When they cried out to Him, He people to deliver them
The result was peace was reinstated, and you could dwell in safety

- I) V12-13 When you saw that **Nahash king of the Ammonites** came against you
This invasion may have been what originally triggered their demand for a king
- II) V13 Now therefore here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have
This is the king you chose and you desired: he is king by majority vote
- III) You think that the majority opinion is the voice of God
You wanted this man as king, but God is the One who gave him the throne
He gave you what you asked for, and you will reap what you have sown
- IV) **We need to remember:** The majority wanted Barabbas instead of Jesus
- V) 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
- VI) V16-18 Now therefore stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before Samuel literally preached up a storm, and God's response caused great fear
Rain during this season (late May to early June) was highly unusual
It caused the people to fear both God and His servant
- VII) V19-22 And all the people said to Samuel Pray for your servants to the Lord
Their response was to recognize their sinful motives, in asking for a king
Samuel gives them words of encouragement and exhortation
POINT
- VIII) You have done wickedly in asking for a king, and rejecting God
This is not a minor sin, yet God is still willing to work with you and care for you
- IX) Do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve Him with all of your heart
Do not pursue empty things that can't profit, nor save you in difficult times
- X) You have a history of turning to idols
So not turn to idols because they have no power to save you

- I) Israel had a history of turning to idols and her prophets continually warned them
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.
- II) V22 For the Lord will not forsake His people for His great name's sake
He does not forsake you because He has promised that He never would
- III) Remember, God loves you with an everlasting love and will not forsake you
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.
- IV) V23-25 As for me far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to
I am committed to continuing to pray for you, and to teach you until I die
EVEN SO
- V) You must fear Him, and serve Him in gratitude or be swept away with the king