

8/16/13

Samuel Renews The Covenant

1Sam. 11:14-12:25

Many have called this chapter Samuel's farewell speech but that is inaccurate, for Samuel will continue to be involved and used of God to guide and direct the nation.

God was still the One over the nation, through Samuel's priestly and prophetic office, evident by the fact that he will declare God's rejection of Saul and anoint his replacement David.

Samuel is marking the clear transition to the monarchy, as he renews the covenant with the people, along with their first king Saul, after God gave him the victory over the Ammonites, which is characterized by: 1Sam. 11:14-12:25

- I. The faithful heart of Samuel in view of covenant. 1Sam. 11:14-12:5
- II. The faithless heart of the people in view of covenant. 1Sam. 12:6-15
- III. The faithful heart of God in view of covenant. 1Sam. 12:16-25

I. The faithful heart of Samuel in view of covenant. 1Sam. 11:14-12:5

- A. The occasion was after the victory over the Ammonites. 1Sam. 11:14-15
 - 1. Samuel commanded the people to gather at Gilgal and renew the kingdom. vs. 14
 - a. The word renew "chadash" reaffirm the kingdom under Saul the first king.
 - b. The prophet Samuel had anointed Saul by God's direction. 1Sam. 10:1
 - c. Samuel had inauguration of Saul at Mizpah, but who despised Saul had voiced their opposition of him. 1Sam. 10:17
 - d. Samuel probably was directed by God to take the opportunity to unite the nation, after this first victory.
 - 2. Samuel and the nation celebrated the transition to monarchy. vs. 15
 - a. The response was unanimous, "All the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. vs. 15a-b
 - b. The fellowship was in unity, "All made sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD. vs. 15c
 - c. The gladness was contagious, "Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly. vs. 15d
- B. The occasion was used by Samuel to declare his blameless character as God's servant,

giving the event the atmosphere of a divine courtroom. 1Sam. 12:1-5

1. Samuel declared his life-long service to the people. vs. 1-2
 - a. He had heeded their request for a king, “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. vs. 1”
 - b. He had live in the public eye all his life, under all scrutiny, “And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.” vs. 2
 - 1) The contrast between Saul is not a mere description but a contrast of wisdom and proven character.
 - 2) Their king, Saul, now was walking before the people and grayheaded Samuel had walked before the people from a child, at Shiloh.
2. Samuel declared his integrity in the service of God and the people. vs. 3
 - a. He challenged anyone to make a charge against him. vs. 3a-b
 - 1) First before God, “Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD”, Yahweh, the covenant name of God.

- 2) Second before Saul the king, “And before His anointed.”
- b. He challenged them to accuse him on being ethically honest on various areas. vs. 3c-h
 - 1) If he had stolen from anyone, “Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated?” vs. 3c-e
 - * The kings they just chose would take these things!
 - 2) If he had abused his power and authority on anyone, “Whom have I oppressed “ratsats”, means to crush. vs. 3f
 - * The king would do this guilty of these very things!
 - 3) If he had been greedy and perverted judgment, “or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes?” vs. 3g
 - * The king standing before them would be corrupt in judgments!
 - 4) If Samuel was guilty in any of these, he would make it good, “I will restore it to you.” vs. 3h
 - * The king that would rule over them would not make things right!

3. Samuel is declared innocent of any unethical conduct in his many years of service. vs. 4-5
 - a. The people answered unanimously affirming his innocence, “And they said, “You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man’s hand.” vs. 4
 - b. The prophet Samuel proclaimed they were not innocent before God but guilty, “Then he said to them, “The LORD is witness against you.” vs. 5a-b
 - c. The prophet also affirmed the witness of Saul, about his innocence, “And His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” vs. 5c-d
 - d. The people responded, “And they answered, “He is witness.” vs. 5e

Illustration

It has been said that character is who you are, reputation is who people think you are.

* **Quote for political leaders**

The budget should be balanced. The Treasury should be filled. Public debt should be reduced. The arrogance of officials should be tempered and controlled, and assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest we ourselves should become bankrupt. The people should be forced to

work and not depend on government subsistence." Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 B.C.) My illust list

Application

1. The opportunity for people to renew their commitment to God is something that should always be encouraged by pastors and leaders.
 - a. Those who are new believers and they fall into sin and Satan condemns them, they need to be exhorted to confess their sins and walk in the Spirit, to grow in the word.
 - b. Those who fall into grave sin and bring severe consequences to their lives, that they turn to God for forgiveness and trust Him for the sufficiency of his grace.
 - c. Those who backslide or go back into the world, that they return to the Lord, for He loves them.
 - * “Return, you backsliding children, And I will heal your **backslidings**.” “Indeed we do come to You, For You are the LORD our God.” Jer. 3:22
2. The importance of having pastors and leaders in the church of good reputation, based on character, is of the greatest value.
 - a. Moses referred to his faithfulness to God and the people, in his farewell speech, as he would pass the baton to Joshua. Deut. 31
 - b. Joshua did the same. Josh. 23-24
 - c. Paul the apostle equally did this before the Ephesian elder, at Miletus. Acts 20

d. Everyone Christians needs to life with the highest integrity, to not cause anyone to reject the message of the gospel, and if we fail, that we be the first to admit our sin and repent and make it right with the person!

* “Let no one despise your youth, but be an **example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” 1Tim. 4:12

3. The leaders of a nation are of the utmost importance and value for the people they rule over.

- a. The city leader, affect the safety, services and financial investments of the people.
- b. The state mayors and Governor are responsible to keep the people out of debt by not spending more than they take in, knowing they work for the people.
- c. Senators and congressmen are to represent the will and desires of the people in their sates and districts, not have personal interest and sell the people out for bribes or gifts.
- d. The president of the United State is to understand that he is not above the laws or the Constitution and that he is the Commander and Chief, not the Commander and thief.
- e. The days of Isaiah identify the day of our own nation today, as the leaders believe that the American people are their ATM card.
* “Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, Who write misfortune, Which

they have prescribed To rob the needy of justice, And to take what is right from the poor of My people, That widows may be their prey, And that they may rob the fatherless. What will you do in the day of punishment, And in the desolation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory?” Is. 10:1-3

The faithful heart of Samuel in view of covenant was blameless!

II. The faithless heart of the people in view of covenant. 1Sam. 12:6-15

- A. The prophet Samuel reminded them of their rebellious history in the past, breaking covenant before the courtroom of God, having established his credibility. vs. 6-11
 1. Samuel declares his proposition, that God had delivered them from Egypt, not Moses and Aaron. vs. 6
 - a. The instruments God used were human, “Then Samuel said to the people, “It is the LORD who raised up Moses and Aaron.” vs. 6a-b
 - b. The deliverance was by God, “and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt.” vs. 6c

2. Samuel calls for them to hear how God was just with the people throughout their history. vs. 7
 - a. Samuel commanded them to be present themselves before God, “Now therefore, stand still.” vs. 7a-b
 - 1) The word stand “yatsab” means to present or station oneself.
 - 2) They were presenting themselves before the Divine judge of heaven.
 - 3) The legal process has three parts: the charges and evidence, the examination of evidence and the verdict, in view of the evidence.
 - b. Samuel declared the purpose, “That I may reason with you before the LORD.” vs. 7c
 - 1) The word reason “shaphat” means justice and judgment.
 - 2) In the context it means he was going to act as a lawyer, in litigation or trial before a judge to expound to them about justice.
 - 3) The witness to what he was going to say was Yahweh.
 - c. Samuel stated the topic, “concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did to you and your fathers.” vs. 7c

- 1) Samuel was going to vindicate the justice of Yahweh, regarding His treatment of the people.
- 2) Samuel included the time period, from the fathers to the present.
2. Samuel summarized their deliverance from Egypt and their arrival to Canaan, characterized by three things. vs. 8
 - a. Their oppression, “When Jacob had gone into Egypt.” vs. 8a
 - b. Their calling out to God, “And your fathers cried out to the LORD.” vs. 8b
 - c. Their deliverance, “Then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.” vs. 8c-d
3. Samuel declared the people were guilty of turning away from God. vs. 9-10
 - a. They brought the oppression on themselves, “And when they forgot the LORD their God.” vs. 9a
 - b. They were judged by God, allowing them to be conquered by their enemies, “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.” vs. 9b-f, Judges 4:2
 - c. They called out to God. vs. 10

- 1) Repenting, “Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, ‘We have sinned.’ vs. 10a-c
 - 2) Confessing their sin, “Because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths”, male and female fertility gods vs. 10d
 - 3) Pleading for their deliverance, ”But now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.” vs. 10e
4. Samuel names some of the judges God used to deliver His people. vs. 11
- a. “And the LORD sent Jerubbaal Y@rubba’al, let Baal contend, who is Gideon “Gid’own”, hewer, who delivered them from the Midianites. vs. 11a, Judges 6-9
 - b. Bedan, is believed to be Barak, Deborah’s general. who delivered them from Sisera, after the order in Hebrews, or Abdon. vs. 11b, Judges 4-5, 11-12, Heb. 11:32
 - c. Jephthah was the judge, who delivered them from the Ammonites. vs. 11c, Judges 11:1
 - d. Samuel, who recently had delivered them from the hands of the Philistines, at Mizpah. vs. 11d, 1Sam. 7

- e. All these and others were used by God to deliver the people, in their obedience to God, “And delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety.” vs. 11e-f
 - 1) The history lesson focuses on the people’s desire to have a man, rather than trusting God.
 - 2) The key was not the man but the man obedient to the word of God, according to the covenant!
- B. The prophet Samuel reminded the people of their ongoing rebellion in the present history, braking covenant. vs. 12-15
1. The people again looked to a man, not God, in their oppression against the Ammonites, vs. 12
 - a. They placed their confidence in Saul, the earthly king, rather than Yahweh, their heavenly king, “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. 1Sam 8:6, 19
 - b. This was the last chance for them to repent and call on God to deliver them, as in the time of judges, rather than looking to Saul!

- c. God had given them many chances to repent but this was the final one!
 - 1) The first was when they asked for a king and Samuel told them the behavior of such a king. 1Sam. 8
 - 2) The second was when they inaugurated Saul as king. 1Sam. 10
 - 3) The third and last was when the Ammonites attacked them. 1Sam. 11
 - 4) The people had again failed to realize that their freedom was not based on a man but on God, through the obedience of a man.
- 2. The people had settled for God's permissive will. vs. 13
 - a. The conclusion, "Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired." vs. 13a-b
 - b. The consequences, "And take note, the LORD has set a king over you." vs. 13c-d
 - * The first 12 chapters belong to the period of judges, chapter 12 marked the end of the period of judges as they knew them, the monarchy is established now!
- 3. The people, despite their present self-willed rebellion, were given the conditions for freedom and life. vs. 14

- a. The foundation, "If you fear the LORD."
- b. The devotion, "And serve Him."
- c. The submission, "And obey His voice."
- d. The uncompromising principle, "And do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD."
- e. The promise blessing, "Then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God."
- f. The cursing, "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." vs. 15

Illustration

Thomas Jefferson said, "A Government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have."

* **DID YOU KNOW?** (both from My illust. list)
 Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin making law. an oligarchy .. the rule of few over many. Exactly what is taking place in our courts by judges in our nation!

Application

1. The Bible provides us with the history of man's rebellion against God.

- a. They began in the Garden of Eden, having everything they needed, they chose to disobey God and sin and death entered in by one man, Adam. Gen. 3, Rom. 5:12
- b. The Tower of Babel men did not want to disperse throughout the earth but instead they wanted to build a tower to heaven, to make a name for themselves, have a religious system that replaced God, so God confused their languages. Gen. 11:1-9
- c. The world of Noah was destroyed by God for their horrible evil, "And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the **imagination** of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done." Gen. 8:2

2. The freedom of America or any other country, does not depend on a man but on a man who, as a leader depends on God and obeys Him.

- a. Acknowledging the intent of the founding fathers in the documents that insured our freedom.
- b. The declaration of independence tells us that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

- c. Freedom of speech, without fear of anyone retaliating against you.
- d. The freedom of choice, where you live, your education, etc.
- e. But all of this was in the context of believing a God, who gave these rights to all.
- f. Our nation has interpreted our constitution, apart from the spirit and context of the intentions of the founding fathers and have given license to all forms of evil and are oppressing and punishing the moral, ethical and patriotic citizens of America.
* "**Woe** to those who call **evil** good, and good **evil**; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Is. 5:20

3. The history of a nation of Israel was recorded and they were able to track, when, where and under what king they deviated or departed from God, our American history is no different.

- a. When our history taught dependence on God and when we started to teach "Economics and American History", as if that was what made us successful.
- b. When we based our ethics and morals on the Judeo-Christian standard and then began to oppose and attack them, forbidding prayer and the Bible in schools.
- c. When at one time patriotism was a virtue and something to be proud of, trusting in

God, as witnessed by our national anthem, but now anti-Americanism and atheism is the banner of our Universities and liberals.

- 1) “The **fool** has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.” Ps. 14:1
- 2) “They forgot **God their** Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt.” Ps. 106:21

The faithless heart of the people in view of covenant were guilty!

III. The faithful heart of God in view of covenant. 1Sam. 12:16-25

- A. Samuel called on God to confirm their guilt at the renewal of the covenant. vs. 16-19
 1. Samuel commanded the people to prepared themselves to witness the concluding verdict from God, “Now therefore, stand.” vs. 16a-b
 - a. The word stand “yatsab” means to present or station oneself, as vs. 7.
 - b. The context again is the heavenly divine courtroom.
 2. Samuel communicated the importance of understanding, what they would see, would be directly from the Divine judge of heaven, “And see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes.” vs. 16b

- a. The word see “ra’ah”, means to inspect, and consider, with the idea behind it is to capture the significance and meaning of what is seen.
 - b. The great thing “gadol dabar”, could be translated “importance utterance, business or case.
3. Samuel conveyed that by the sign, Yahweh would confirm their guilt before God. vs. 17
 - a. He told the people what he was going to do, “Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain.” vs. 17a-b
 - 1) The wheat harvest was mid May to mid June and it did not rain, rain at this time would ruin the crop.
 - 2) The sign would indicate the Divine judge of heaven intervening in nature to reveal His will.
 - 3) The word thunder is literally voice.
 - 4) Samuel with his prophetic authority proclaimed something God was going to do before it happens.
 - b. He told them the purpose of the Divine sign was to confirm their guilt before God. vs. 17c-d
 - 1) “That you may perceive “yada” to know and see “ra’ah”, to inspect, and consider to capture the message. vs. 17c

- 2) The message and interpretation is given to them, in order that it not be left to various interpretations, “that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking a king for yourselves.” vs. 17c-d
- 4. Samuel cried out to God to manifest the sign. vs. 18-19
 - a. The petition and reply from God, “So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day.” vs. 18a-b
 - 1) God at Mount Sinai manifested thunder and lightening when the people entered into covenant with God but they told Moses they were afraid and did not want to speak to God, Moses could speak to God, then Moses could speak to them.
 - 2) “Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the **lightning** flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.” Ex. 20:18
 - b. The response of the people, “and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.” vs. 18c
 - * They understood the message of their guilt!

- c. The petition and reply of the people to Samuel. vs. 19
 - 1) They pleaded for intercession, not being right “And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the LORD **your** God, that we may not die.” vs. 18a-c
 - 2) They acknowledged their sin, “For we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves.” vs. 18d
- B. Samuel communicated to the people that God would honor them if they honored the covenant. vs. 20-25
 - 1. Samuel gave his council of to the people. vs. 20-21
 - a. He comforted the people, “Then Samuel said to the people, “Do not fear.” vs. 20a
 - b. He exhorted the people, “You (is emphatic) have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD.’ vs. 20b-c
 - c. He instructed the people, “but serve the LORD with all your heart.” vs. 20b-c
 - d. He warned the people, “And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty “tohuw” worthless, formless.

things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing.” vs. 21

2. Samuel gave the commitment of God to His people. vs. 22
 - a. Based on Yahweh’s steadfast covenant love, “For the LORD will not forsake His people.” vs. 22a
 - b. Based on Yahweh’s character, “for His great name’s sake.” vs. 22b
 - c. Based on Yahweh’s sovereignty, “because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.” vs. 22c
 - d. This is the “covenant formula” found 100’s of time in various forms, in the Old Testament. Ex. 34:6, Deut. 31:6, Josh. 1:5

C. Samuel consoled the people who would be faithful to the covenant. vs. 23-25

1. Samuel would continue to be their High Priest and judge. vs. 23
 - a. He was committed to pray for them, regardless what they had done, “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you.” vs. 23a-c
 - b. He was committed to instruct them the word of God, “but I will teach you the good and the right way.” vs. 23d
2. Samuel gave further council, vs. 24

- a. Their wisdom, “Only fear the LORD.” vs. 24a
 - b. Their protection,” and serve Him in truth with all your heart.” vs. 24b
 - c. Their motivation, “for consider what great things He has done for you.” vs. 24c
3. Samuel warned those who chose to rebel and disobey the covenant. vs. 25
 - a. The condition, “But if you still do wickedly.” vs. 25a
 - b. The consequences, “you shall be swept away, both you and your king.” vs. 25b
 - 1) The phrase swept away “caphah” means to be snatched away in ruins, destroyed.
 - 2) The penalty applies to both, the common person or leaders.

Illustration

DID YOU KNOW?

James Madison, the fourth president, known as "The Father of Our Constitution" made the following statement:

“We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said:

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ”. (My illust list)

Application

1. The Christian will stand before God one day.
 - a. The believer will stand in the righteousness of Christ, as a child of God. Rom. 1:16-17
 - b. Not because they deserve it but because they agreed with God that they were sinners in need of a Savior by faith. Eph. 2:8-9
 - c. They repented and asked for forgiveness of their sins, in the name of Jesus, who died in their place. 2Cor. 5:21
 - d. They will be judged for the motive of their heart, in the things they did, at the Bema-Seat, being tested by fire. 1Cor. 3:12-14. 4:5
 * “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.”
2. The unbeliever will also stand before God one day.
 - a. The unbeliever will stand in his own righteousness, filthy rags. Is. 64:6

- b. The unbeliever will deserve hell, having rejected every opportunity to except Jesus as their Savior.
- c. The unbeliever will stand before God at the White Throne Judgment, according to God’s books. Rev. 20:11-15
 * “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”
3. The journey of salvation is declared to be solely based on the work of Jesus Christ, each person deciding to walk and continue with God or not.
 - a. No one is forced to go to heaven or hell.
 - b. No one is a robot, all have a free-will.
 - c. No one can blame anyone for ending in hell.

- d. No one can make the decision to be saved and go to heaven, after death, it must be before death.

* “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” Jn. 15:1-7

4. The crisis of our nation, is not economic but spiritual, if the leaders and people of America will repent and turn to Jesus, the corruption, self-interest and greed would be tempered and dealt with in true judicial justice.

- a. We need intercessors like Moses, Samuel, Daniel and Paul.

- b. “The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people **love** to have it **so**. But what will you do in the end?” Jer. 5:31
- c. “And it shall be: **like** people, **like** priest. So I will punish them for their ways, And reward them for their deeds.” Hos. 4:9
- d. “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a **reproach** to any people.” Prov. 14:34

The faithful heart of God in view of covenant was based on His word!

Conclusion

Samuel marked the clear transition to the monarchy by renewing the covenant with the people, along with their first king Saul, after God gave him the victory over the Ammonites.

- I. The faithful heart of Samuel in view of covenant was blameless!
- II. The faithless heart of the people in view of covenant was guilty!
- III. The faithful heart of God in view of covenant was based on His word!