

## Scripture: 1st Samuel 12

**1 “And Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you.**

**2 And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day.**

**3 Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you.”**

**4 They said, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man’s hand.”**

**5 And he said to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” And they said, “He is witness.”**

**6 And Samuel said to the people, “The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.**

**7 Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers.**

**8 When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.**

**9 But they forgot the Lord their God. And 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.**

**10 And they cried out to the Lord and said, ‘We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.’**

**11 And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of**

**the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety.**

**12 And when you saw that Nahash the 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.**

**13 And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you.**

**14 If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well.**

**15 But if you will 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 and your king.**

**16 Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes.**

**17 Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking for yourselves a king.”**

**18 So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.**

**19 And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.”**

**20 And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.**

**21 And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.**

**22 For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.**

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

**24 Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.**

**25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”””**

***“The grass withers and the flower fades;  
But the word of the Lord endures forever.”***

(Pastoral Prayer)

So far, we have been in the book of 1st Samuel for 12 weeks...

If you remember, we started 1st Samuel on Mother's Day and found it to be the perfect book to start on that particular day because 1st Samuel actually begins by introducing us to a woman named Hannah who desperately desires to be a mother!

Hannah makes her appeal to the Lord for a Son and promises to “give him to the Lord all the days of his life”...

So God answers Hannah's Prayer with a son and before chapter 1 ends, we are introduced to the child Samuel...

Hannah keeps her word and brings young Samuel to the house of the Lord where Eli the Priest ministered and Samuel grows up in the service of the Lord...

And so far we have covered the life of Samuel through the pages of scripture, specifically from chapters 1 through chapter 11...

What we have learned from these inspired words of scripture is that Samuel was a chosen vessel of God to be His prophet and priest to the people of Israel and that not a word that he said “fell to the ground”...

In other words, what Samuel said is exactly what happened...

We also learned that Israel remained in a cycle of sinful rebellion, then they would be judged, then they would cry out to God, then God would send a deliverer...

Not long after being delivered, the people of Israel would become rebellious again, they would sin, they would be judged, they would cry out to God and God would send them a deliverer and on and on this cycle would continue...

Now the ultimate insult of sinful rebellion would come from the people of Israel when Samuel was faithfully serving the Lord's people...

That insult came to light in chapter 8 where the people told Samuel they wanted a King like the other nations had...

They told Samuel that he was too old and his Sons were unfit for the task, and they wanted a fleshly King they could see!

Now, let me give you a personal observation of the text concerning how deep this insult truly goes...

I have been in ministry since 1982... For 42 years I have observed people and have seen sinful behavior of all kinds...

So when I look at what 1st Samuel says concerning the desire of the people to have a fleshly King, I think, based on personal observation of people, I am accurate in saying the following...

I truly believe the people wanted a fleshly king just like it is described in **1st Samuel 8:5**... the people said “**Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.**”

Now follow me carefully because what happens in **chapter 12** has everything to do with this insult...

What the people were actually saying was...

We don't want God to be our King! His standards are too high! He is no fun! He keeps us from being ourselves! All He wants us to do is to PRAY and all we want to do is PARTY....

But if we had a fleshly king to rule over us then we could be like other nations...

Let me ask you a couple of questions...Do you know what the number one sinful disposition of other nations was? It was idolatry!

They worshipped hand-made gods that gave license to do man-made vulgar acts!

2nd Question... Do you know what the number one sinful act that other nations engaged in as a result of their Idolatry? Perverse Sexual Sins...



The people of Israel were not just arbitrarily asking for a king so that they could simply tout the fact that they too had a king...

Not at all! They wanted all the sinful bells and whistles that came with a fleshly king....

They desired to unhinge themselves from the righteous rule of God as their King so that they could enjoy the desires of their flesh without penalty!

That's part of the insult! The other part of the insult is in the fact that they desire a fleshly king after God had miraculously delivered them from the Philistines!

Remember in Chapters 4 through 7 how God, without the help of any man, took on the Philistine god, Dagon, broke him to pieces and then destroyed the Philistine Army with Thunder and Confusion???

After that, chapter 7 describes Israel as a nation enjoying peace!

And after God, the true King, does all this... the people have the audacity to reject God and his faithful Prophet Samuel and ask for a fleshly king!

Do you see the sinful insult of the people?

By The Way... if you're thinking I am making a mountain out of a molehill then let me tell you that I believe I have plenty of evidence that I am not...

In Exodus 32, Moses has been gone for 40 days on Mount Sinai and the people say "we don't have a clue what has become of Moses"

So they immediately reflect on what the Egyptians had for their gods, they make an Idol in the Egyptian fashion, and their sinful behavior follows suit in that they laugh, mock and commit other vulgar acts...

So the insult is repeated beginning in...

**chapter 8** where the people "**Pleaded for a King.**"

We saw in **Chapter 9** a King is "**Privately Chosen.**"

In **Chapter 10** a King is "**Personally Anointed.**"

And in **Chapter 11**, a King is "**Publicly Proclaimed.**"

This brings us to our text today which is chapter 12

Last week, if you remember, we explained chapter 11 with 12 words that began with the letter “R”...

Even though it took me an hour last Sunday to cover all of the Chapter 11, I think I can now do it in less than a minute...

Last week we read about...

1. The **Reckless** behavior of the Ammonites (vs 1)
2. The **Request** of the besieged (vs 1)
3. The **Ridiculous** Reply from the enemy (vs 2)
4. The **Respite** granted (vs 3)
5. The **Report** given to the people (Vs 4-5)
6. The **Rush** of the Spirit on Saul (Vs 6)
7. The **Requirement** of a King (vs 7)
8. The **Rescue** without swords (vs 8-11)
9. The **Recourse** of the Arrogant (vs 12)
10. The **Restraint** of a King (vs 13)
11. The **Renewal** of a Kingdom (vs 14)
12. The **Rejoicing** of the people (vs 15)

This week, I have broken Chapter 12 into 4 sections and the letters I’m using this week are the letters

“P” and “V” to help us remember the content of the passage...

1. The Prophet is Vindicated (verses 1-5)
2. The Problems are Vanquished (verses 6-11)
3. The People are Vetted (verses 12-21)
4. The Potentate is Venerated (verses 22-25)

Now before we get into a verse by verse exposition of chapter 12, I think it is important to cover a couple of things so that we can fully understand the text...

First, I believe we need to further underscore the insult the people of Israel gave God in their desire for a human King....

Our God is a Faithful Covenant Keeping God...and if we truly knew this, every one of us would say “Thank the Lord that He is because we often are not Covenant Keeping!”

Time after time God has shown Himself faithful to keep His Word and we have, in return, shown ourselves to be absolutely faithless...and our promises to Him and to each other are easily broken!

Either we do not understand the biblical definition of “Covenant” OR, we simply do not care to abide by the terms of the Covenants we make to Him and to each other...

So what exactly is the biblical definition of the word “Covenant”?

A Covenant in scripture, according to Sinclair Ferguson of Ligonier ministries, is a bond that God makes. It is a promise He makes that He also confirms with a Commandment or an Oath.

If God were to break that promise, he would cease to be God...therefore He cannot fail to Keep His Word!

This is what a true Covenant actually is...

Some examples of Covenants in scripture that God has made would be the Noahic Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant, the Sinaic (or the Law) Covenant, the Davidic Covenant and, of course, the New Covenant...

All of these Covenants are held together based on God keeping His Promise and not on man keeping his promise...

But if man was faithful to keep his promises, like God is faithful to keep His promises,  
-there would be no courtrooms full of Business partnership that went sour.  
-there would be no divorces  
-there would be no church drama played out before the eyes of the world where members de-covenant with each other...

**1st Samuel chapter 12** is mostly here for our observation of the fact that God is faithful to keep Covenants with His people even if they fail to do the same...

At some point in this message, you and I have to come to terms that the Lord does not forsake us because we are so special to Him...

He doesn't forsake us because we are the cream of the crop on all the earth!

It is not because we are so good and obedient to Him...

These are not the reasons He doesn't forsake us...

We need to wrap our brain and our heart around the fact that God does not forsake us because of what **verse 22** in our text says... **“For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it pleased the Lord to make you a people for Himself.”**

So if we are to fully comprehend chapter 12 with all of its implications, we must understand that God is in covenant with His people and He has shown Himself to be faithful and the people are showing themselves to be faithless...

The second thing we need to see before we dive in verse by verse is the connection between chapter 11 and chapter 12...

At the end of chapter 11, Samuel calls all the people to Gilgal so that the Kingdom could be renewed...

This is not a call to simply re-establish Saul as King...

We know that Saul was already Chosen by God, Anointed by Samuel and Publicly Proclaimed to be Israel's king...

But I do not believe that the primary purpose Samuel had in mind was to simply re-establish the kingship of Saul at Gilgal...

I think it is part of the reason for Samuel calling everyone to Gilgal... I just don't believe that was all of it...

What we know, concerning what was done at Gilgal to Saul was described as being done "before the Lord" in the last verse of chapter 11...

We also know that at the end of Chapter 10 not everyone considered Saul to be their King... Remember those who were called "worthless fellows" who did not view Saul fit to be their king?

But now in Gilgal, Saul is made King before the Lord and with no opposition at all... that is quite a renewal!!!



But I believe this “renewing the kingdom” is much more than just renewing the man Saul as king...

I agree with Robert Vannoy that “renewing the kingdom” at Gilgal was a summons to renew their allegiance to the rule of Yahweh...

At the very least, I believe the “renewing of the kingdom” was that all of Israel (not just some) but all of Israel would now have a fresh commitment to the divine plan for the way the human king would rule.

Any way you cut it, Samuel called the people to Gilgal so that Saul’s kingship would be established before the Lord and before all the people...AND, all the people would be reconciled to the Divine Plan of God concerning how a human kingdom would rule under the great and mighty King, Yahweh!

So do you know what chapter 12 actually is?

I believe chapter 12 is a detail account of all that was said in Gilgal!!!!

So let’s go through it one verse at a time...

## **First, The Prophet is Vindicated (Vs 1-5)**

Israel's History has been littered with Men who held ordained positions of leadership with Divine responsibilities and yet have abused their office time and time again...

We could name many who used their position as a prophet such as Balaam who went after the King of Moab's monetary reward if Balaam would just come and curse the Israelites.

Or what about Gehazi, the servant of Elisha who ran after Naaman to get a monetary reward but instead, because of his deception, was rewarded with full blown leprosy!

Or what about all the false Shepherds in the days of Jeremiah in Jeremiah 23 who told lies for power and for profit...

And just before Samuel comes to Judge the people, many of Israel's Judges were on the take!

They bribed the people and committed adultery with the women even in the temple such as the sons of Eli had done!

Now, Samuel stands before the people of Israel in verse 1...

**1 “And Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you.**

Samuel tells the people that they got what they wanted. We already know the backstory about how this did not please Samuel... but with God's instruction, Samuel obeyed the voice of the people!

**2 And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day.**

Samuel affirms the fact that they now have a flesh and blood king...

He also affirms the fact that he has lived long and he repeats what the people have already said back

in chapter 8... that Samuel is indeed old and gray and that his sons are counted with the people...

Samuel rehearses the fact that he has been serving the Lord before the people since he was a young child...

Then Samuel begins to ask if there is anything of substance that he could be accused of doing before the king and before the Lord that would taint his character and hurt the people he served...

Samuel says in verse 3...

**3 Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you."**

It is the people, in verse 4, who affirm the Prophet's vindication as they say...

**4 They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand."**

Verse 5 settles that affirmation of vindication by evoking both the Lord and his anointed (speaking of the king) as witnesses to what the people have just said...

**5 And he said to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” And they said, “He is witness.”**

This is such a big deal... this is not just the prophet examining himself, but a man who is willing to hear any accusation of wrong from the people he has lived in front of since he was a small boy serving in the temple...

More than that, he stands vulnerable and unguarded before the eyes of the Lord and before the newly anointed king...

Even more than that... Samuel is willing to make right even the hint of wrong that he could possibly be accused of...

Where is that kind of character in the pulpits of today? Where is that kind of Character in people who claim to be sincere followers of Christ???

Now we come to the 2nd portion of the text...

### **The Problems are Vanquished (Vs 6-11)**

Now Samuel takes the opportunity to Boast on the God he serves and the many ways God took care of all the problems Israel faced in the past...

We have just read of the faithfulness of Samuel in his ministry, now we will observe the faithfulness of His God, even before the prophet was born!

Look with me at verse 6...

**6 And Samuel said to the people, “The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.**

This is a transitional verse that takes us from the Defense of the Prophet toward the prosecution of the people...

But first, there is a time of boasting on the Righteous Judge for a few verses...

In the Court today, we hear the words “All Rise” as the honorable human judge is introduced...

So it is with Samuel as he tell the people in **verse 7... “Now therefore stand still...”**

There is coming a day when the Great and Mighty Judge of the Universe will call all of His created beings into account...

There is coming a day when that Great and Mighty Judge separates the sheep from the Goats and don't think for a minute there will be any kind of careless movement...

We will stand still in the midst of the Court of Courts... much Higher than the Supreme Court of the United States could ever attain...

All creation will stand before the great and terrible Judge and either hear Well Done or Depart from Me!

It is in that spirit of awe and reverence that Samuel says in verse 7...

**7 Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous**

**deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers.**

These righteous deeds that Samuel is about to name are worthy of the peoples full attention and so the Prophet demand their respect as he details the acts of the Lord in Israels past...

Notice the cycle in this text that we first mentioned today concerning the people being free, becoming sinful, reaping judgement, crying out in repentance and being delivered...

You can see this cycle, even in these few verses about their past...

**8 When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.**

**9 But they forgot the Lord their God. And 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.**



**10 And they cried out to the Lord and said, ‘We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.’**

**11 And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety.**

Notice how Samuel makes big of both the Judgement and the Grace of God in the verses we just read...

I have to admit that I often think that the lines of God’s Judgement and His Grace seem somewhat blurred to my human eyes...

Let me tell you why...

We look at verse 9 where it says...**And 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...** and we see that as nothing but Judgement!

But I see it as both Judgement and Grace! It is God who uses His judgement even as a gracious act of mercy so that we might repent of our sinful ways...

Oh Grace, Grace! Marvelous Grace! Grace that is greater than all our Sin!

So the Lord even works Grace into His Judgements so that His people will never be forsaken!

So Samuel makes Big of the Holy and Righteous character of the Lord in dealing with His people...

God is Holy and Righteous and keeps His Covenant even with a people who often rebel and fail to keep covenant with Him!

Now the Third portion of our Text where...

### **The People are Vetted (Vs 12-21)**

Genia and I love History! In fact, we already have a trip planned and paid for that involves both Bible and American History combined...

We recognize that there are people who are not big on History...

To them, recent History is sufficient for them to function...

In our text, Samuel has already covered the Historical account of how God has been gracious to Israel concerning the Exodus and the Judges...

Now he speaks to the people about something everyone of them actually just lived through in their very recent History...

It is in verse 12 where Samuel uses the most recent historical account as a transition from the Historical to the Prosecutorial of the people of Israel...

Last week we read about that vagabond Nahash, the king of the Ammonites who wanted to pluck everyone's right eye out!

Now we will see the true depth of the insult the people of Israel give God...

It here where the scab of the wound is pulled off and the wound festers as the air hits the raw flesh.

Look at what is said in verse 12...

**12 And when you saw that Nahash the 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.**

Remember that repetitive cycle we spoke of where Israel would be free, then becoming sinful, reaping judgement... and what was the last thing they would do just before God would send a deliverer???

They would cry out in repentance!

But what is described in verse 12 is different!

Do you see it???

The Cycle is broken...but not in a good way... it's worse than ever!

In verse 12 the people say to Samuel... **NO! We Will Not Cry Out To God for Deliverance... Give us a king** and we will do it our way!

This is the depth of the wound of Insult!

Oh, it's still happening today! We do not have to face someone like Nahash or an Ammonite

rampage for us to follow in the footsteps of rebellious Israel...

All it takes is some sort-of crises and we begin to think that the True King cannot deliver us in this matter...

Someone needs deliverance from a particular addiction so they cling to King 12-steps!

A marriage in the church is about to go down the drain and the true King has given to His Church Elders who are that couples primary line of defensive strategies of prayer, counsel and Spiritual help...

But the first place they go is either to King-Bar or King-Friend or King-Secular Counselor...

Any King or route seems reasonable except the one route the True King has designed...

No... We will not Cry out to that King for deliverance, we will just go our way, thank you very much!

So the people get their king! You see this in verse 13

**13 And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you.**

Verse 13 is Samuel's way of saying "so you already stated that you have no desire for the true King... no trust in the Lord to send you adequate leadership to navigate like He has done in the past...So have your king!

Trust me when I say, great danger lies ahead for Israel's insult of God and great danger lies ahead for us if we continue to go our own way as though we can handle things ourselves and in our own way...

Now even in the midst of the insulting offense, God makes His Gracious appeal...

**14 If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well.**

**15 But if you will 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 and your king.**

These are clear terms for the people to comprehend...

Notice the path that is outlined...

Fear the Lord

Serve the Lord

Obey the Lord

Follow the Lord

I don't believe anyone needs an explanation on how to serve, obey and follow the Lord...

I do, however, believe that most people do not understand how they should fear the Lord and what place it has in our walk with Christ...

So Samuel has told them the importance of fearing the Lord and beginning in verse 16, he now gives them a visual lesson concerning the Fear of the Lord...

**16 Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes.**

**17 Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking for yourselves a king.”**

**18 So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.**

**19 And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.”**

So Samuel knows that mere words about fearing God is easy to say...

He also knows that connecting their wickedness to the reason they should fear the Lord is very much needed...

People can agree to fear the Lord and yet not truly fear Him... and so the next temptation that comes, they will easily fall into the trap of the Devil...

So Samuel gives the people a visual lesson concerning the fear of the Lord...



He ask them to acknowledge the season, and they do...

It's harvest time, about May or June and it is a time of the year known in Israel as the dry season....

So Samuel tells the people he will ask God to send rain which every Israelite knew that rain was extremely rare during this time of the year...

Alistair Begg says that it would be like 12 inches of snow falling in Miami on the 2nd of June!

I would say that it is not impossible but highly unlikely and would demand an explanation!

So Samuel prays and the thunder claps and the rain falls and the people are shaken to their core!

One commentator ask, if the storm was a sign that got Israel's attention, what exactly was the point?

He answers his own question by saying that God showed Israel what agencies of destruction God held in his hand, and how easily he could bring on them and their property.

Remember that God is a Covenant keeping God, right???

Well those Covenants also have Covenant Curses that reveal how serious the Lord is about His promises and our obedience...

Read Leviticus 26:14-46 (if time permits)

Read Deut. 28:15-68 (if time permits)

These are lively threats of a living God who had the power to impose them at any given time!

Yet we have made the fear of God into mere human respect...

The very idea that God would shake the world and men would say “we respect you God!”

So the people hear the Thunde and see the downpour of torrential rain and the Bible says they feared for their lives and they confessed their sins, especially the sin of insulting God by demanding a human King!

Genia is a very clean lady, and she likes the house clean and she wants it to smell nice...

Not long ago, we had one of those smells that we couldn't find the source from where it was coming from so we finally narrowed it down to something in the fridge...

It was in a bag, it alarmed us that it was in our fridge, it was repulsive, and we were so glad to be made aware of it so we could chunk it!

The question comes like this... How can the living God get you to fear your Idolatry, be alarmed by it, be repulsed by it, or even be aware of it unless God shows you how it smells to Him!

So in order for God to impress upon His people how sinful sin is to Him, how much of a stench it is to Him and how rotten sin is to Him, God just may scare the daylights out of you with the use of His Holy Anger!

But now notice in verse 20 what the Prophet tells the people...

**20 And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.**

**21 And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.**

God graciously tells His people to not go after the things that cannot profit them...things that cannot deliver them... things that are empty! Just follow Him...

He is the good Shepherd who leads you to cool refreshing streams and flourishing pastures!

#### **Fourth, The Potentate is Venerated (vs 22-25)**

These last 4 verses are the words that Samuel uses to describe the character of our great and mighty King!...

Look at what they say...

**22 For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.**

**23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray**

**for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.**

**24 Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.**

**25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”**

This is what we know about God through these verses...

1. God will not forsake His People!

When others leave you... just as he did not leave the people of Israel, even in their rebellion, God will not leave you!

2. God will not drop the Divine Chisel!

Remember, he is making us into the likeness of His Son for His own pleasure!

3. God will not stop the intercession!

In the Old Testament, God had prophets to intercede such as we see here with Samuel...

I wish I could say that I am perfect in this mediation... I do love you and You are always on my heart and in my prayers...

Unfortunately, I am not perfect in this but am striving to be better at intercession prayer...

But I can tell you of the One who is absolutely perfect in his intercession and His mediation for you and that is our Savior Jesus Christ...

Let me leave you with these two verse...

**“Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”**

**Romans 8:34 ESV**

**“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.”**

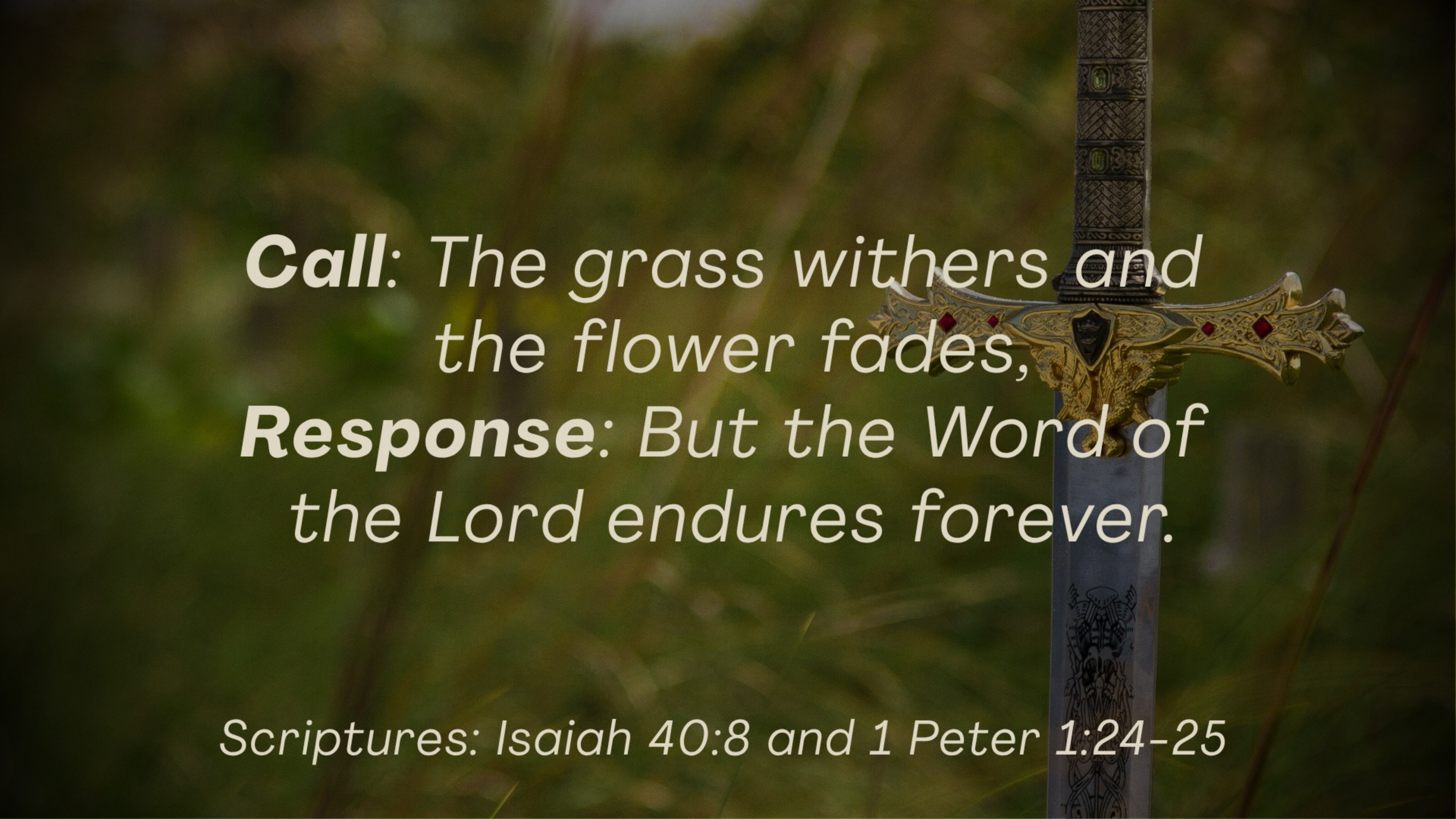
**1 Timothy 2:5-6 ESV**



THE BOOK OF  
**1 SAMUEL**  
CHAPTER 12





A sword with an ornate crossguard and a scabbard, set against a background of green grass. The sword is positioned vertically, with the crossguard in the center. The crossguard is highly decorative, featuring intricate metalwork and small red gemstones. The blade is visible above and below the crossguard. The background is a soft-focus image of green grass, creating a natural and serene setting.

**Call:** *The grass withers and  
the flower fades,*  
**Response:** *But the Word of  
the Lord endures forever.*

*Scriptures: Isaiah 40:8 and 1 Peter 1:24–25*



## RECAP & INTRODUCTION

- Hannah's desire for a son (ch. 1)
- Samuel, God's chosen vessel (ch. 2-3)
- Israel's rebellious cycle (ch. 4-7)
- The people pleaded for a king (ch. 8)
  - Desired the sinful lives of their neighbors over following God as King
  - Not the first time - Exodus 32

## RECAP & INTRODUCTION

- A king is privately chosen (ch. 9)
- A king is personally anointed (ch. 10)
- A king is publicly proclaimed (ch. 11)



## 12 “R’s” IN CHAPTER 11

- The reckless behavior of the Ammonites (v. 1)
- The request of the besieged (v. 1)
- The ridiculous reply from the enemy (v. 2)
- The respite granted (v. 3)
- The report given to the people (v. 4-5)
- The rush of the Spirit on Saul (v. 6)

## 12 “R’s” IN CHAPTER 11

- The requirement of a king (v. 7)
- The rescue without swords (v. 8–11)
- The recourse of the arrogant (v. 12)
- The restraint of a king (v. 13)
- The renewal of a kingdom (v. 14)
- The rejoicing of the people (v. 15)



## CHAPTER 12

- The Prophet is Vindicated (v. 1–5)
- The Problems are Vanquished (v. 6–11)
- The People are Vetted (v. 12–21)
- The Potentate is Venerated (v. 22–25)

## CHAPTER 12

- God, the covenant keeping King
  - *Covenant*: a bond that God makes; a promise He makes that He confirms with a commandment or an oath
  - If God were to break His covenant, He would cease to be God

## CHAPTER 12

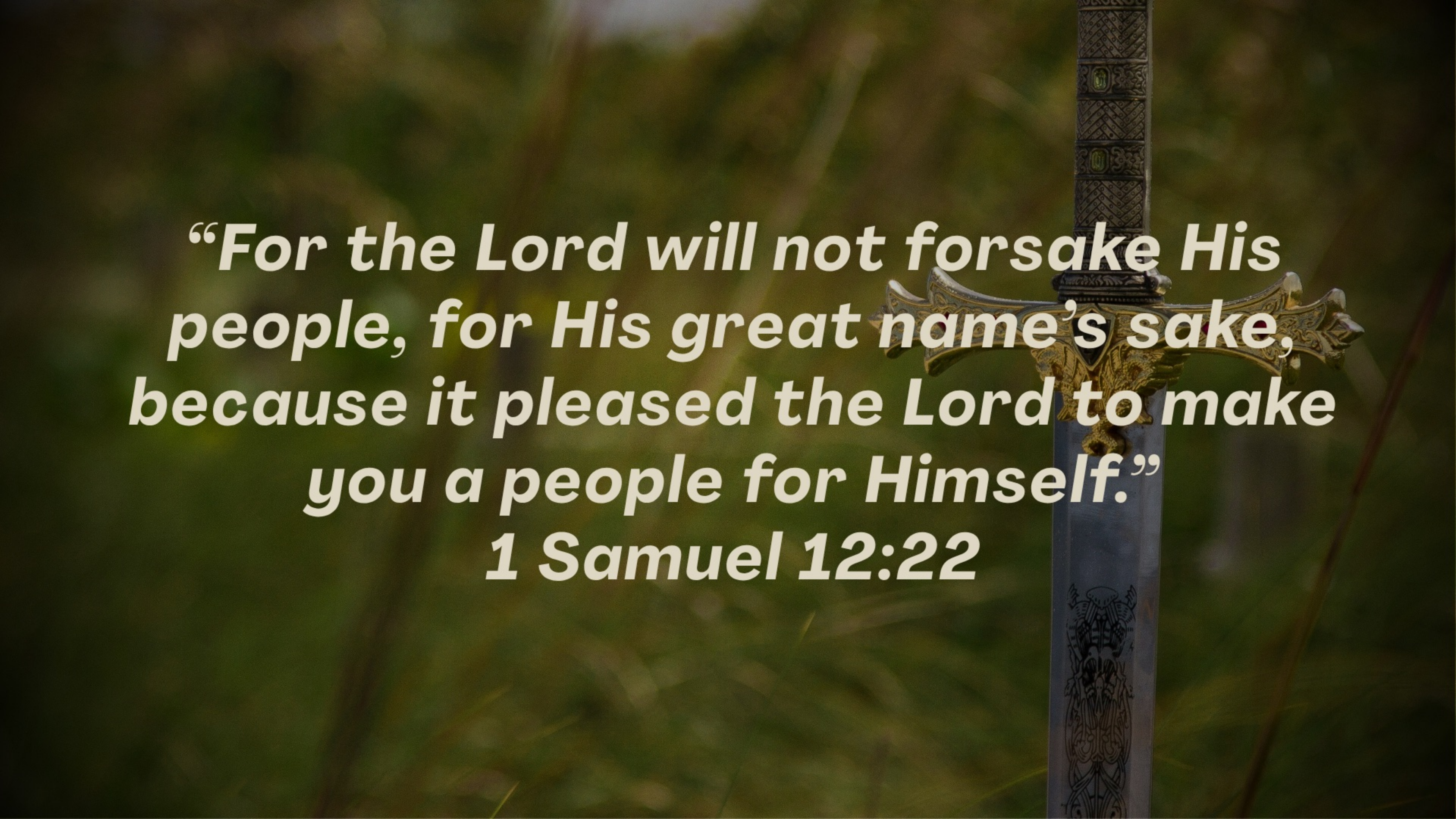
- God, the covenant keeping King
  - Examples of Covenants in Scripture
    - Noahic
    - Abrahamic
    - Sinaic/the Law
    - Davidic
    - New



## CHAPTER 12

- God, the covenant keeping King
  - All covenants are held together based on God keeping His promise, not on man keeping his
  - God is faithful to keep covenants with His people even if they fail to do the same





***“For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake, because it pleased the Lord to make you a people for Himself.”***

***1 Samuel 12:22***



## CHAPTER 12

- Picks up at the renewal of the kingdom at Gilgal
  - Saul is made king before God with no opposition
  - Renew their allegiance to God

# THE PROPHET IS VINDICATED

(V. 1-5)

- History of money seeking, dishonest judges in Israel (remember Eli's sons)
- Samuel asks if there are any accusations against him, and the people vindicate him with the Lord as witness



# THE PROBLEMS ARE VANQUISHED

## (V. 6-11)

- Samuel praises the Lord and requires the people to “stand still” in honor
- God is the righteous Judge Who far exceeds all others
- The God Who judges is also full of mercy and grace

# THE PEOPLE ARE VETTED

(V. 12-21)

- Samuel brings up the recent salvation of Israel from Nabash and the Ammonites, yet the people still desire a king
- The pattern: fear the Lord, serve the Lord, obey the Lord, follow the Lord
- Leviticus 26:14-46, Deuteronomy 28:15-68



# THE POTENTATE IS VENERATED

(V. 22-25)

- God will not forsake His people
- God will not drop the divine chisel
- God will not stop intercession
- Romans 8:34, 1 Timothy 2:5-6