

THE BOOK OF
1 SAMUEL
CHAPTER 11

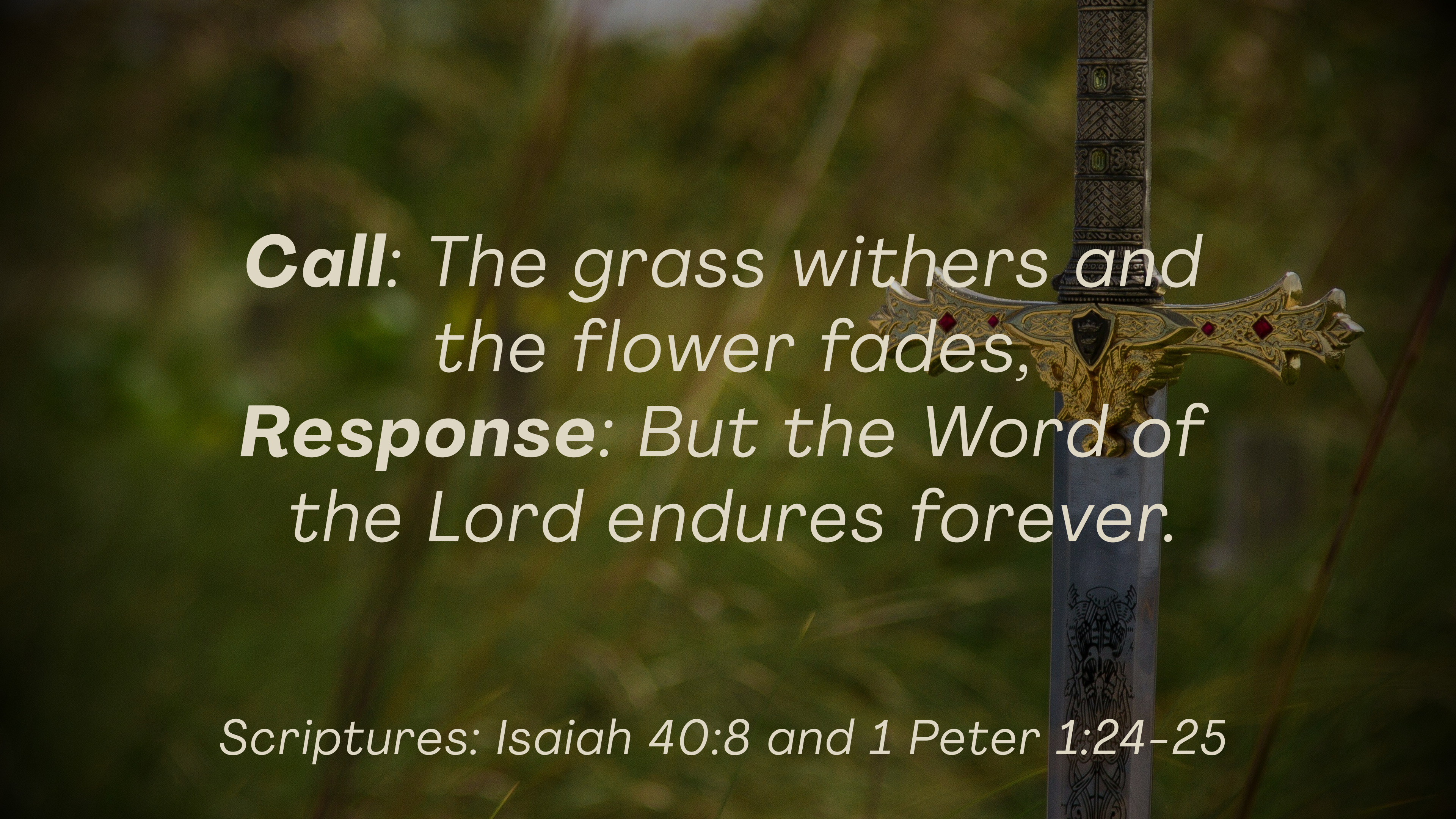
THE NASCENT KINGDOM



John Macdonald

1939 — 2025



A sword with an ornate hilt and a scabbard, set against a background of green foliage. The hilt is decorated with intricate patterns and small red gemstones. The scabbard is dark with a gold-colored clasp and a decorative band. The blade is visible, showing a simple cross-guard design.

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

- *Nascent*: “to recently have come into existence”
- Recap:
 - Ch. 8: the people pleaded for a king
 - Ch. 9: a king is privately chosen
 - Ch. 10: a king is personally anointed
 - Ch. 11: a king is publicly proclaimed

RECAP & INTRODUCTION

- The historical importance of Scripture is of secondary value compared to the benefit brought to our spiritual walk with Christ by the Holy Spirit
- Romans 15:4, 2 Timothy 3:15–16, Hebrews 10:23
- Chapter 8 – rejecting words spoken by a man of God is rejecting God Himself

RECAP & INTRODUCTION

- God's grace is found repeatedly in the Old Testament
- God chooses a king for Israel, never relinquishing His sovereign role as the King of all kings
- Psalm 65, Proverbs 19:21, Jeremiah 10:23, Lamentations 3:37

RECAP & INTRODUCTION

- Samuel has anointed Saul as the prince of Israel, beginning the failed line of human kings who will eventually give way to the Heavenly kingdom that will never fail nor end
- Chapter 11 is when Saul is made king of Israel publicly

CHAPTER 11

- God's Word is always true, and it's proven three times in chapter 11 alone. God told the people in 1 Samuel 8:11-18 that the king would:
 - Reign over them (seen in v. 6-7)
 - Require from them (seen in v. 7-9)
 - Restrain them (seen in v. 12-13)

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)

THE RECKLESS BEHAVIOR OF THE AMMONITES (V. 1)

- The threat of the right eye being gouged out
- Nahash, leader of the Ammonites, is a cruel & arrogant warlord; but this is not unique
- Nahash is also strategic & pridefully arrogant

THE REQUEST OF THE BESIEGED

(V. 1)

- Why didn't the people of Jabesh fight?
They were farmers without weapons
- Their king? Last report said he was
hiding in the luggage
- Thus, their request for a treaty

THE RIDICULOUS REPLY FROM THE ENEMY (V. 2)

- The treaty Nahash sent: we will gouge out your right eyes
- The people requested time to ask for help before agreeing to such awful terms

THE RESPITE GRANTED (V. 3)

- What a sad condition for the people of Jabesh to be in:
 - No ability to fight
 - Forgot how God made them victorious in the past
 - Consider Samuel too old to help them
 - A low opinion of the king
- Last hope: delay in the inevitable

THE REPORT GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL (V. 4-5)

- Where are the “stone observers” who remember all God has done?
- Where is the king?

THE RUSH OF THE SPIRIT ON SAUL (V. 6)

- The turning point is because God's Spirit came upon His chosen vessel

THE REQUIREMENT OF A KING & PROPHET(V. 7)

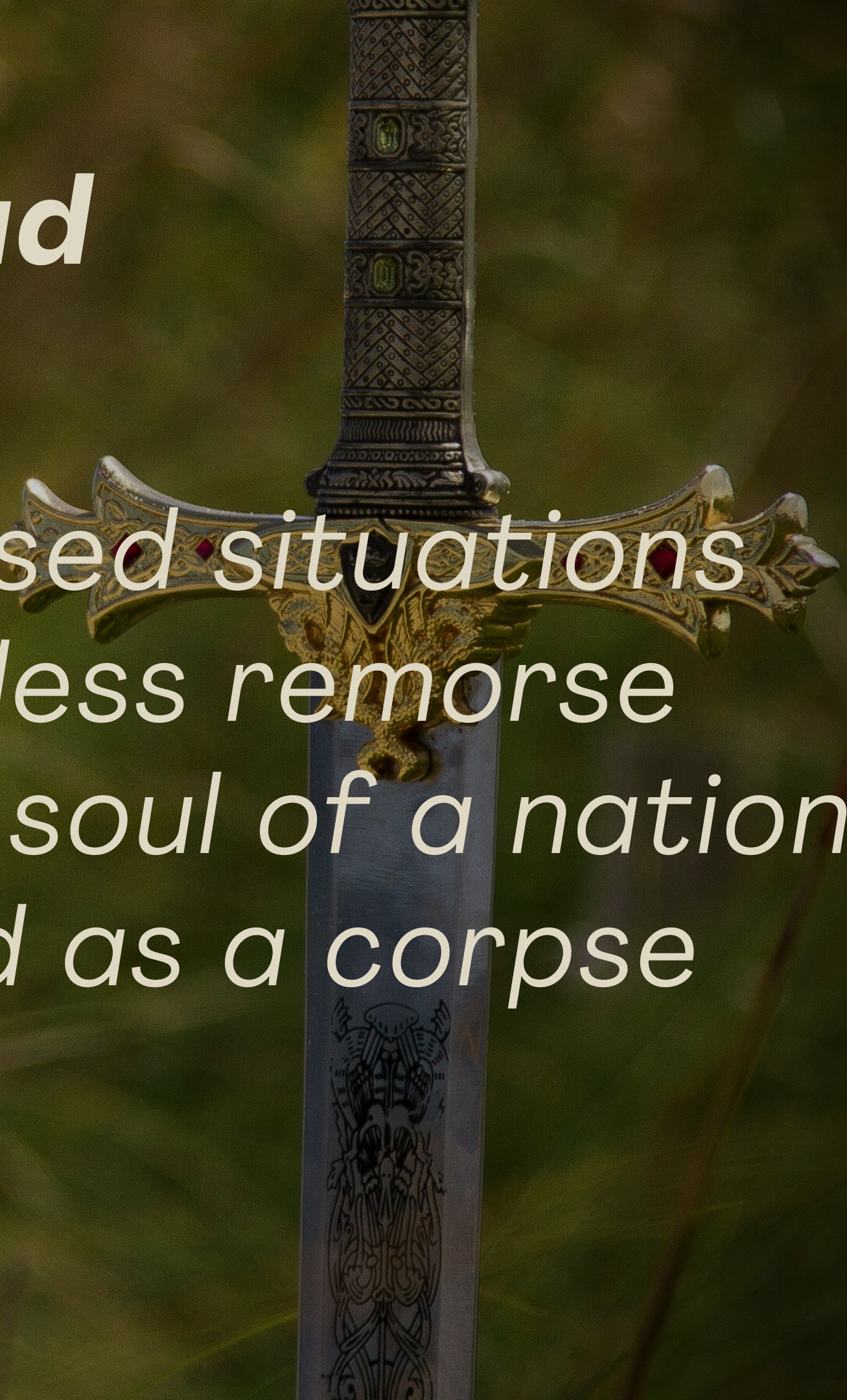
- Saul apparently had the approval of Samuel in his reaction to the news
- Keeps in the character of God (James 4:6, Psalm 34:18): a heart for the oppressed
- The activity of the Lord displayed in the leader & the people

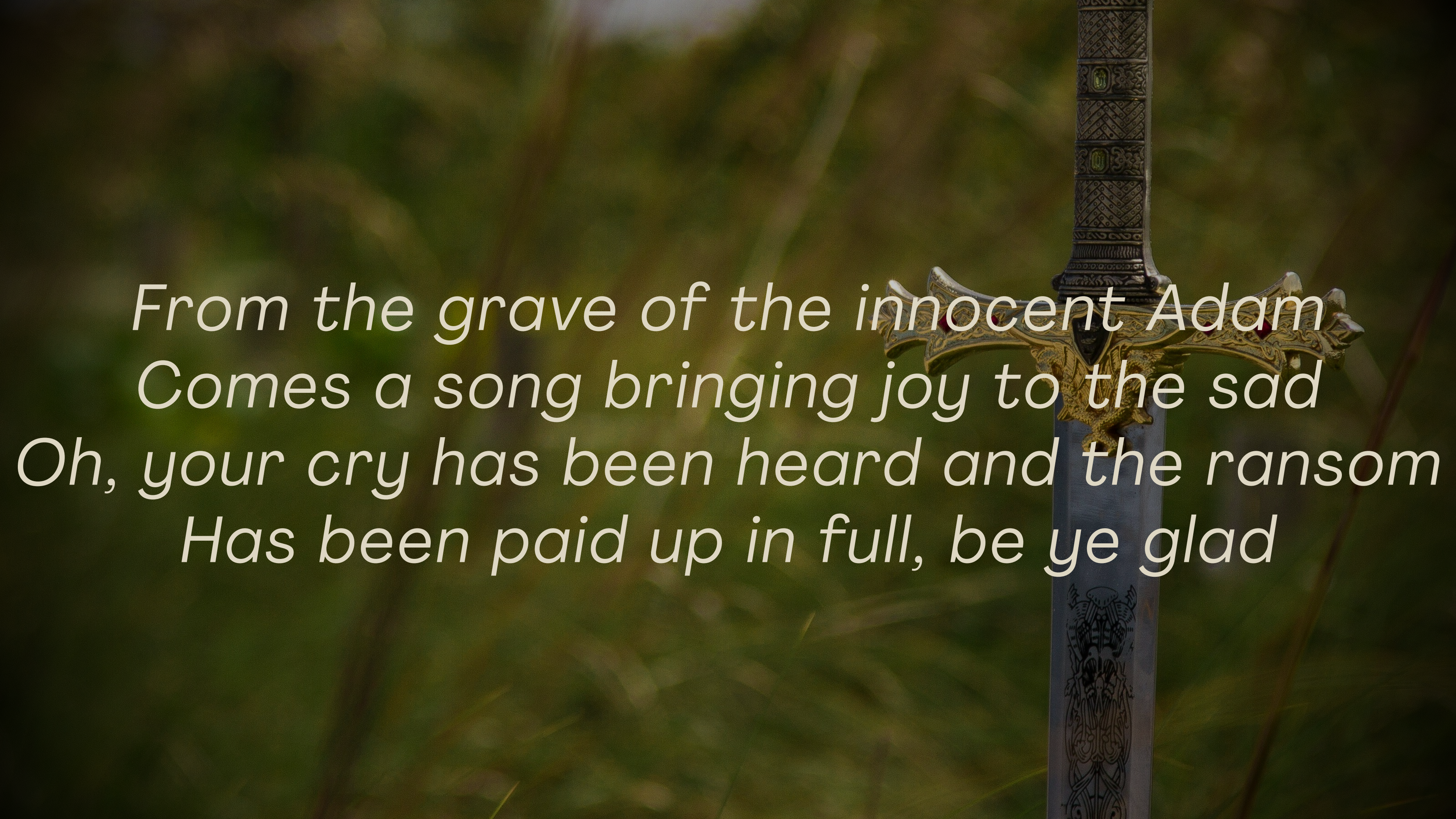
THE RESCUE WITHOUT SWORDS (V. 8-11)

- Saul's plan: muster the people, send a message, divide into 3 companies, attack in the morning with what they had – axes, sickles, & plowshares

Be Ye Glad

*In these days of confused situations
In this night of a restless remorse
When the heart and the soul of a nation
Lay wounded and cold as a corpse*

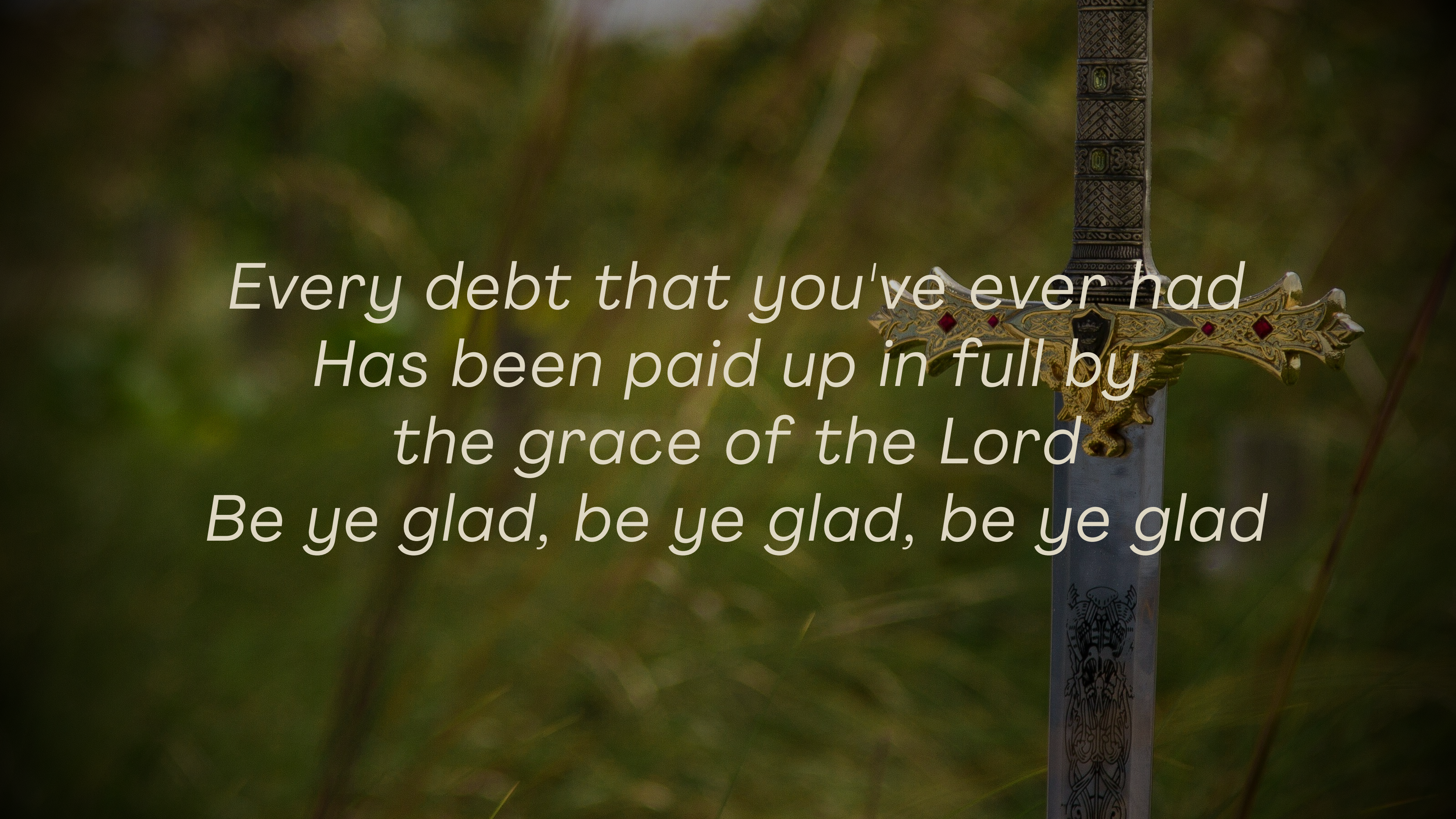


A sword with a cross-shaped hilt and a scabbard, set against a background of green foliage. The sword is positioned vertically, with the hilt in the upper right and the scabbard extending downwards. The hilt is ornate, featuring a cross design with intricate patterns and small red gemstones. The scabbard is dark with a light-colored, possibly silver or gold, decorative band near the top. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural setting.

*From the grave of the innocent Adam
Comes a song bringing joy to the sad
Oh, your cry has been heard and the ransom
Has been paid up in full, be ye glad*

*Oh, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad*



A sword with an ornate hilt and a scabbard, set against a background of green foliage. The hilt is decorated with gold and red gemstones. The scabbard has a black and white patterned design. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

*Every debt that you've ever had
Has been paid up in full by
the grace of the Lord
Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad*

THE RECOURSE OF THE ARROGANT (V. 12)

- God delivers, and man wants credit
- Psalm 124
- Correct response: humility & gratitude to the Lord

THE RESTRAINT OF A KING (V. 13)

- Saul is still being lead by the Spirit
- He knew where the credit belonged

THE RENEWAL OF A KINGDOM (V. 14)

- Gilgal, where God had reminded them that He had removed their reproach after crossing the Jordan into Canaan
- Jabesh-Gilead needed to remember that their disgrace was removed
- Saul is made king in Gilgal as a reminder that he rules under the one true King

THE REJOICING OF THE PEOPLE (V. 15)

- What a difference from the beginning of chapter 11!

CONCLUSION

- God always keeps His Word
- God remains as the sovereign King even over human dynasties
- A staging for the spiritual challenge
Samuel shares with the people in his upcoming farewell address (chapter 12)

My Tribute and Celebration of the impact John MacArthur had on my ministry...

Last Monday evening, a wonderful Servant of Christ was promoted into the very near presence of our Savior...

There simply isn't enough time to explain how great an impact **John MacArthur** has had on my life and my ministry...

I first started listening to him while I was in the Navy way back in the early 80's...

I remember joining the Bible Preaching Lending Library where you could get two cassette Tapes through the mail which had 4 sermons (1 per side) and you could keep them for 2 weeks, but after that, you had to return them through the mail...

I can't tell you how excited I was every time Mail-Call took place on the USS Paterson and a little cassette box was handed to me and I could barely wait to get off of my duty station to find a quiet space to listen to John MacArthur's messages...

I would listen to those two tapes (4 messages) over and over and over again and again and again... immersed in his verse by verse exposition of scripture...

If you also have listened to John MacArthur through his radio program known as “**Grace To You**”, you are aware that this was his hallmark...he mostly taught verse by verse...

But every now and then, he would do a topical series...

My favorite Topic that John MacArthur would preach on was the Topic of Heaven!

It was this topic that seemed to bring out a passion and an excitement in his voice that no other topic could seem to muster!

I remember hearing him, almost giddy, preaching about the beauty of Heaven from Revelation chapter 21...

One thing that stuck out was how he explained that the gates were made out of pearls... not a bunch of pearls, mind you....

Each of the 12 gates were made from a single pearl!

I remember him humorously saying “Now that had to be some big oyster to produce such a huge pearl!” Of course everyone laughed...

But then He got real serious as he explained how spiritually significant these gates, that were made out of huge pearls, actually are to sincere believers...

He explained that a single pearl is made from a wound of a creature... the oyster is irritated by a grain of sand or a parasite that wounds it, so the oyster secretes layers of nacre and the result, after 2-3 years, is a beautiful Pearl of great value!

John would explain that Salvation comes to us through the wounding of, not a creature, but the Creator!

It was the Creator who willingly took in the sinful parasite and bathed it in Grace, Love and Mercy to make us into the pearl of His pleasure!

That is the significance of those beautiful Pearly Gates that are open 24 hours a day because there is no night in heaven!

All through eternity, as we go in and out through those 12 gates, we will be reminded of the price that was paid for our salvific entrance into the very near presence of our great King!

Oh that I might follow in the footsteps of Luther, Owens, Spurgeon, Sproul and yes... John MacArthur in faithful ministry for the glory of God and for your good!

I hope, by the influence and the ministry these men have had on me, that I have been Faithful to pass that on to you in the spirit of what Paul said in

2 Timothy 2:2

“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

I don't know if you are aware that the "Grace To You" radio lessons are actually on a yearly schedule and not just chosen on a weekly basis...

With that in mind, I think it is rather interesting that John MacArthur died on Monday, July 14th and do you know what the title of his scheduled message was for Tuesday, July 15th?

It was a message that he preached back in the early 80's... The title was "What Heaven Is"

Now, our brother is enjoying all that he faithfully preached about at this very moment!

With that being said, please join me in the verse by verse reading and preaching of the Word of God...

Text: 1 Samuel 11

1 "Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you."

2 But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I

gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel.”

3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, “Give us seven days’ respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you.”

4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the ears of the people, and all the people wept aloud.

5 Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, “What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?” So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh.

6 And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled.

7 He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, “Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!” Then the dread of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out as one man.

8 When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

9 And they said to the messengers who had come, "Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have salvation.'" When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad.

10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you."

11 And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

12 Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is it that said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death."

13 But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has worked salvation in Israel."

14 Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom.”

15 So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.”

The grass withers and the flowers fade
But the word of our God endures forever

Title: **The Nascent Kingdom**

If you are wondering what the word “**Nascent**” means...it simply means something that has recently come into existence...

If you have been with us for the past several chapters of **1st Samuel** then you know that this is what we have been studying...

In **Chapter 8** the people “**Pleaded for a King.**”

In **Chapter 9** a King is “**Privately Chosen.**”

In **Chapter 10** a King is “**Personally Anointed.**”

In **Chapter 11**, a King is “**Publicly Proclaimed.**”

If you remember, in **chapter 8** the people rejected the leadership God had given them through Samuel...

Please note this... Samuel faithfully delivered God's Word...

Back in **1 Samuel 3:19** we are told that the Lord **"Let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground."**

The reason Samuel's words came to pass is because they were the words that God put in him to say to the people...

So be very careful... if you are rejecting the leadership of a man that is speaking the Word of God, you are guilty of rejecting God!

I am so tempted to pause our forward movement into **chapter 11** and speak to you about the importance of the Word of God! But I can't do that because I must deliver the narrow content of what **chapter 11** is actually telling us!

But I will address this common objection....there are some who wonder, what is the big deal! Why so much detail about missing donkeys, resting on

rooftops, hiding in baggage...Why not just tell us who is made king and be done with it?

I will tell you why... God is not interested in just a history lesson for His people!

The Historical account is indeed important, but it is not of the greatest importance!

We are not hear just to be taught a History lesson! There are real words in these chapters that must not **“fall to the ground”** even if we think they are inconsequential!

Every one of these words in this Divine Narrative benefit our walk with Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit according to the Scriptures!

But you ask, Where? Where in the Bible are we told that all the words in Samuel benefit us today???

Well, Paul tells us this in **Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope!”**

Every single word that is in scripture is brought to us by the “Breath of God” **and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness and these words are able to make you “WISE” according to 2 Timothy 3:15-16...**

In Addition, The Book of Hebrews commands us to **“Hold Fast the Confession of our hope without wavering...**

But WHY? Why in the light of every tragedy, every disappointment, every demon infested day of struggle and urgency as well as the monotony of drudgery should we **“Hold Fast our confession of our Hope????”**

Because the rest of that verse in **Hebrews 10:23** tells us to do this because **“He who promised is faithful”**

We are not just going through a history lesson in the book of Samuel...

We are receiving Faithful Words from the Great Promise Keeper concerning His Sovereign Reign over every detail of His created order!...

Let this sink in... if you reject the Words of the King, you reject the King!

This is why God told Samuel in **chapter 8**, the people are not rejecting you Samuel...they are rejecting Me!

That is exactly what they did in **chapter 8** as they pleaded for a human king... and did God abandon them for their sinful behavior? Not At All!!!!

People often accuse the God of the Old Testament of being absent of Grace.... Oh Really????

He could have wiped them off the planet in a second and would have been JUST in doing it!

Instead, God, working in the details of normal life... through the means of His providence, He gives the people a human king and we see this beginning in chapter 9 where Saul is “Privately” chosen...

Isn't it interesting that God does the Choosing and not the people...so let me ask you this question, "Who is the true Sovereign?"

Do you know what other passage comes to mind as I ponder the sinful disposition of the people in **1st Samuel Chapters 8-11** and the fact that God handles them so graciously in His Sovereign Reign as He actually Chooses their human king?

I think of **Psalm 65**... This is such an encouraging word of Grace and provision from the God who atones for our sinful behavior....

Listen to these wonderful words from **Psalm 65**...

1 "Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.

2 O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

3 When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

4 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! (So who does the Choosing??? Who is it that brings near? And Whose Court are His chosen brought into for all eternity?

God orchestrates it all!)

Proverbs 19:21 says “**Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.**”

Jeremiah 10:23 says “**I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.**”

Lamentations 3:37 tells us “**Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it.**”

Now listen to what **Psalms 65** says is the result of the Sovereign Rule of the Great King of all the Earth...

(Vs 4 cont...) We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

5 By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

**6 the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might;
7 who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,
8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.
9 You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.
10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.
11 You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.”**

So no matter the pleading of the people of **chapter 8** to have their human king, and even though God gives them what they desire, at no time does God

relinquish His Sovereign Rule as the King of all Kings!

So in **Chapter 8**, the people Plead for a human king...

In **Chapter 9**, we have the actual response of God as He Privately Chooses a human king through his providential design...

In **Chapter 10**, Samuel, by God's Sovereign Authority, Personally Anoints Saul as Prince among Princes to be that human king and thus initiates an earthly Dynasty of Human failure that will one day give way to a Heavenly Kingdom of which there will be no failure and no end!

Now Finally we come to Chapter 11 (so all I have said thus far has been just my introduction) but we will see at the end of Chapter 11 that God will bring Saul to the forefront and Publicly position him as their human king!

Now before we dive into the verse by verse exposition there are 3 things I want you to see so that your heart is greatly encouraged!

I want you to see the **3 specific ways chapter 11** proves that God's Word is always true...

And it has everything to do with Israel's desire for a fleshly king and what God said the human king would do...

Remember that God told the people, through the prophet Samuel, exactly what a human king would do back in **chapter 8 verses 11-18...**

In Summary, God told the people their king would **Reign** over them, he would **Require** from them, and he would **Restrain** them...

This is exactly what we begin to see taking place in **chapter 11...**

So here is an overview of the text...

1. In **1st Samuel 11:6-7** we see the beginning of the **Reigning Authority** of king Saul...

2. In **Verses 7-9** we see what the king **Requires** from the people...
3. And at the end of the chapter in **verses 12-13** we see how the king **Restrains** the people...

Now as we move through these **15 verses of 1st Samuel chapter 11**, I have come up with 12 words that begin with the letter “**R**” that will help us to remember the content of this chapter...

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)

So let's move through the chapter verse by verse and see how each of these words help us to understand what exactly is taking place...

... and then our hope is that we can glean an encouraging application so that we might know how to answer the question of How Shall We Now Live in light of what we have read from **chapter 11**...

First notice...

1. The **Reckless** behavior of the Ammonites

Vs 1 “Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, “Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you.”

Vs 2. But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, “On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel.””

One of the first things that captures the attention of the modern reader is the threat of the right eye being gouged out!

There are several things at play in these verses that would benefit us to understand... so let me lay them out for you...

First, You are correct, indeed Nahash is a cruel and arrogant warlord! But history is filled with such men!

In fact, we could go all the way back to Cain and Able and observe the callousness of the human heart that sin produces... in that a man could kill his own brother without impunity!

It seems that every century produces men and women who stand out for their vulgar desire to inflict pain and suffering upon others... they seem to thirst for blood...

Listen to this quote from Joseph Stalin the Soviet Union Dictator who ruled by terror and brutally murdered millions of his own citizens during his reign in the early 20th century...

He said these words "To choose the victim, to prepare the blow with care, to slake an implacable vengeance and then to go to bed, there is nothing sweeter in the world."

So Nahash is numbered with many warlords of the past and of the present, and I am certain of the future as well...

He is a mean warlord and secondly, he is a strategic warlord!

The gouging of the right eye was a military guarantee that Israel could not rise up and rebel against the Ammonites...

Third, Nahash was also pridefully arrogant in that the gouging of the right eye was also a form of humiliation to the people of Israel!

This leads us to...

2. The **Request** of the besieged

Now, before we go any further, we need to deal with a question that might be on your mind...

Why didn't the people of Jabesh fight?

The answer to that question is another question...
With what weapons would they use?

These people were farmers! All they had were Plowshares (a sharp pruning hook that was placed on the end of a plow)

They also had Mattocks (these were similar to Pic-Axes)

They also had Axes and sickles.... But the people had no swords for battle! This is made clear in Chapter 13:19-22.

Now that you know this fact, I think you now understand how miraculous the defeat of the Philistines actually was way back in chapter 7...

So when the Bible said in 1st Samuel 7:10 that the Lord Thundered with a mighty sound against the Philistines, and that sound was so great that it threw them into confusion...

Now you can understand why Israel was able to be victorious over the Philistines with just axes and sickles!

But that was the Past victory and the people had the propensity to forget all that God had done...

So why not call on their new King, Saul?

Do you know that the last image of Saul that was on their mind was a man hiding in the luggage compartment in chapter 10...and a question was asked “How can this man save us?”

So realizing that the Ammonites had them surrounded and that Israel had no weaponry for war they simply make a request for a treaty in verse 1.

Now observe...

3. The **Ridiculous** Reply from the enemy seen in verse 2...

Nahash told them, that they could make a treaty on the condition that he would gouge out all their right eyes...

Well, this didn't sit well with the people of Jabesh, so they asked if they could have 7 days to send out messengers all over Israel to see if anyone would come to save them...

Now to the contemporary Reader, it may seem shocking to realize that Nabesh must have approved their request...

We observe that...

4. The **Respite** granted in **verse 3...**

“The elders of Jabesh said to him, “Give us seven days’ respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you.””

What a sad condition for the people of Jabesh to be in...

- They have no ability to fight...
- They have forgotten how God made them victorious in the past...
- They consider Samuel too Old to help them...
- They have a low opinion of the king they had asked for...

But their last hope is that maybe there is someone out there that might save them...

I personally think that they expected no one could save them and they were only putting off the inevitable...they were all going to lose their right eyes!

So in their effort to to delay the inevitable, we see...

5. The **Report** given to all the people of Israel

4 “When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the ears of the people, and all the people wept aloud.

5 Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, “What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?” So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh.”

These two verses further underscores the horrible condition of the people of Israel...

Two questions come to mind...

First question....

Where are the stone observers???

Time and time again, God had told the people to place stones at different locations to remind them of how He had delivered the people from their enemies!

He did it when they came out of Egypt And crossed the Red Sea on dry land...

He did it in Joshua chapter 5 at the entrance of Canaan after crossing the Jordan River on dry land!

And just a few few chapters ago (in chapter 7) they set up an Ebenezer Stone of Remembrance after defeating the Philistines...

Where are the men who remembers the placement of those stones???

These are the men who, after remembering the placement of that stone, were supposed to say “Thus far has the Lord Helped us!”

Where are those men in this historical account of the siege of Jabesh?

I want to ask this question to the men of Awakening Church...

When was the last time you called your family together in the midst of a particular struggle or a tragedy and said to them “Thus far the Lord has Helped us!”

We so carelessly miss Divine Opportunities to remind our families of how God has helped us to live in this present world...

When was the last time you called your family together after a hard week at work, and looked at your check stub or your deposit slip and instead of complaining of how small it is...you tell them how good God is?

Second Question...

Where is the king?

They wanted a human king, they got a human king and he is the last one to know the threat that has come against his kingdom!

This is crazy! They went to Saul's hometown but no one went to look for king Saul!

What an incredible display of how little they thought of Saul!

These messengers were sent out to look for someone that might be able to save the people from Nahash and the Ammonites!

No one considered Saul as that person! I guess those “worthless fellows” in chapter 10 were right after all, when they asked “How can this man save us?”

Now I think they justified their question in the fact that all we know about Saul is this...

He was looking for Donkeys

He was hiding in baggage

He comes walking behind Oxen

Alastair Begg made this statement about Saul... he said “it would be difficult to find someone who looks even less like a Savior than Saul!”

But notice what happens when Saul is finally brought into the loop...

6. The **Rush** of the Spirit on Saul is seen in vs 6...

6 “And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled.”

Now I want to warn you to be very careful of how you view this passage!

This indeed is a key turning point in a chapter that begins with an overwhelming obstacle...

But the turning of the key is not the result of human anger, or will or endeavor...

Rather, the key turning point is the intervention of the Spirit of God upon the vessel of His Choice! It is the words of Jesus that should be heard in the mind of a true student of the Bible where the Savior said in John 15:5 "...apart from me you can do nothing!"

Note that everything that happens concerning Saul, is now associated with the Prophet Samuel...

Notice...

7. The **Requirement** of the King and the Prophet in verse 7

7 "He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!" Then

the dread of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out as one man.”

The fact that Saul being rushed by the Spirit and becoming angry and then cutting to pieces his oxen, evidently with Samuel’s approval, may be repulsive to you... but it is actually in keeping with the character of God....

James 4:6 tells us that “...**God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.**”

Psalm 34:18 “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Saul’s response is against the prideful arrogant Nabesh, but his heart is for those that are being oppressed!

Now this is the guy, at one time, who hid in the luggage compartment from the people!

What has happened to turn him into such a leader?

The Spirit of God has Rushed upon him is what the text says!

I want you to notice the Activity of the Lord in both the Leader and the people...

First, concerning the Leader of God's choosing...

Saul now has a plan! Before he wondered home and walked behind oxen...

Now Saul moves with clarity, purpose and courage! This is the result of the Spirit of God rushing upon him!

Then notice the activity of the Lord in the midst of the people...

They saw the pieces of the Oxen...
They heard the words of the messengers
They knew it was from Saul

But it took the "Dread of the Lord" to bring them to obedience!

The same spirit that moved Saul to righteous anger is the same Spirit that moved the people to obedience...and they came as one man!

There are times when God rushes upon Church leaders, such as Elders to lead the people to do certain things for His glory and the welfare of his sheep...

I believe God's spirit leads both the leadership and the congregation in a unified manner to accomplish his Divine Purpose...

Sometimes you might find yourself out of sink with both the leadership as well as the assembly when it comes to certain decisions that are not dictated by scripture...

I would caution you greatly to be prayerful about lining your heart in unity with both leadership and the congregation when it comes to non-scriptural matters...

It is far better to move together in a loving and unified way than to be confronted with a piece of rotting Oxen flesh that demands obedience!

So Saul devises

8. The **Rescue** of the People without a sword available as seen in verses 8-11

8 “When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

9 And they said to the messengers who had come, “Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: ‘Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have salvation.’” When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad.

10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, “Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you.”

11 And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.”

So here is Saul’s plan...

He musters and numbers the people at Bezek

He sends the messengers back with the good news of Salvation!

He divides the people into three Companies

Then he successfully attacks the Ammonites early in the morning when they least expected to. Be attacked!

As far as we know, all of this was done with axes, sickles and plowshares!

Isn't this a picture of what we are supposed to do as the messengers of the Gospel?
People are besieged and need rescue! Our King has sent us out with His message of Salvation.

Those who know how wretched their state is, will be just like the people of Jabesh-Gilead at the end of verse 9... they will be glad!

This reminds me of the lyrics of the song "Be Ye Glad"

It goes like this...

In these days of confused situations
In this night of a restless remorse
When the heart and the soul of a nation
Lay wounded and cold as a corpse
From the grave of the innocent Adam
Comes a song bringing joy to the sad
Oh, your cry has been heard and the ransom
Has been paid up in full, be ye glad

Oh, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad
Every debt that you've ever had
Has been paid up in full by the grace of the Lord
Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad

Now Notice...

9. The **Recourse** of the Arrogant in verse 12...

12“Then the people said to Samuel, “Who is it that said, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring the men, that we may put them to death.’”

So the Ammonites were defeated and Salvation came to the people of Jabesh-Gilead...

But notice the words of the Arrogant! They said...
**Who is it that said, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’
Bring the men, that we may put them to death.**

God does the delivering and man wants the credit!

Later, another humble king would pen these words that would have benefitted these arrogant people...

In **Psalm 124** King David would write...

1 “If it had not been the Lord who was on our side— let Israel now say—
2 if it had not been the Lord who was on our side when people rose up against us,
3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;
5 then over us would have gone the raging waters.
6 Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!
7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

These men should have held their words and exercised humility and gratitude for it was the Lord that delivered them and not their own hands!

Now see...

10. The **Restraint** of a King in verse 13...

13 “But Saul said, “Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has worked salvation in Israel.””

Saul, still under the Rush of the Spirit continues to exercise kingly leadership when he says **“Not a man shall be put to death, for today the Lord has worked salvation in Israel.”**

Even Saul knew who was to be credited for the people being saved!

Many Many years after this account of salvation, the Romans would become the dominant Kingdom and they would begin to say Kaiser Saves, Long Live Kaiser!

But after the crucifixion of Christ, Peter would take that political statement and use it to exalt the risen Savior by saying **Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved! That name is Jesus!**

This is still true today and this is what we proclaim to be the Gospel!

Now Samuel invites the people to

11. The **Renewal** of the Kingdom in **verse 14**

“Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom.””

The question is why Gilgal and What Kingdom is being renewed?

Well Gilgal is the place where God had reminded them that He had removed their reproach and their disgrace after they crossed over the Jordan River into Canaan!

So Samuel takes them back to that place because Jabesh-Gilead needed to remember that their disgrace was removed as well...

How disgraceful was it for these people to say to the ammonites... let us serve you!

So Samuel takes them back to Gilgal to further conquer their humiliation and their disgrace...

But he also takes them there to renew the kingdom...

But what kingdom? Saul's kingdom or the real King's Kingdom!

I believe the people now have a firm grasp of the reality that Saul is indeed their Human King, but he is subordinate to the one true King of all the earth!

So I Think it is both! Saul is made King in Gilgal as a reminder that he rules under the Authority of the one true King they should always remember and never forget! This is clearly seen in verse 15 when it says that Saul was made King BEFORE THE LORD in Gilgal!

Remember we first said that...

In **Chapter 8** the people “**Pleaded for a King.**”

In **Chapter 9** a King is “**Privately Chosen.**”

In **Chapter 10** a King is “**Personally Anointed.**”

And now...

In **Chapter 11**, a King is “**Publicly Proclaimed**”

Finally, observe...

12. The **Rejoicing** of the people in verse 15...

15 “So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.”

My, how different Chapter 11 ends than how it began...

Conclusion:

There are three reasons for the purpose of the details of this historical account in chapter 11...

1. God always keeps His Word!
2. God remains as the Sovereign King even over human dynasties.

3. This event is used as a staging for the Spiritual Challenge Samuel shares with the people in His farewell address in chapter 12.