

## I. SERIES REVIEW:

- A. Chapters 1-2 **The Prayer of Hannah**
- B. Chapter 4 **Ark-aology** “Rabit Foot Religion”
- C. Chapters 5-7 **God is not a presence to be managed but a king to be worshiped**
- D. Chapter 8 **Give us a King! Be careful what you ask for, you may get and regret it.**
- E. Chapters 9-11 **Imposter Syndrome:** The Gap between God anointing and Saul’s insecurity.
- F. Chapter 12 **Samuels Farewell Speech:** Poor Choices: Learn, Turn and Return to Christ

## II. SETTING: TIMING & PLACE:

- A. **1 Samuel 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.
  1. Their help, they assume, is not in the proven arm of Yahweh but in a new form of government. “A King—or Bust,” not “In God We Trust.”<sup>1</sup>
  2. **Chapter 11 - Coronation of Saul at Gilgal: (1 Samuel 11:14–15).**
  3. **1 Samuel 11:14** Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom.” הַמְלִיכָה from “king” **Melek**. play on their king but renewing the covenant.
  4. **Gilgal’s Significance:**
    - a. Israel’s first camp & set up 12 memorial stones (**Joshua 4:18–20**),
    - b. The pain and covenant sign of circumcision (**Joshua 5:2-9**),
    - c. celebrated their first Passover (**Joshua 5:10**),
    - d. Where the Manna officially ended and food would come from harvest (**Joshua 5:12**)
    - e. Where Samuel regularly gathered Israel & taught God’s word (**1 Samuel 7:15–16**).
    - f. Where Saul were learns the kingdom will be torn from him (**1 Samuel 13:8-14**).

## III. BACKGROUND (Big Picture):

### A. Change: The way things were.

1. **Judges 2:16** “God raised up Judges...
2. **Judges 2:17** “They did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods...
3. **Judges 17:6** “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
4. **Ruth 1:1-2** “In the days when the judges ruled a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab...<sup>2</sup> **The name of the man was Elimelech**  
**Elimelech** אֱלִימֶלֶךְ God אֱל King מֶלֶךְ Name means “My God is King!”
5. **1 Samuel 12:2b** I have walked before you from my youth until this day.
6. **1 Samuel 4:1** “all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord.”
7. **1 Samuel 7:15** “Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.”

### B. Change: The way things will be from now on.

1. **Vs. 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 (*compare with 1 Samuel 8:22*).”
2. **Vs, 2a** and now, behold, the king walks before you...

<sup>1</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, [1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart](#), Focus on the Bible Commentary (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 125.

3. “This chapter is not so much about a change in the role of the prophet or covenant with God, but a change in political leadership in Israel from judgeship to kingship.”<sup>2</sup>
4. **Covenant Renewal.**
  - a. Judges 2 (angelic covenant lawsuit),
  - b. Deuteronomy 31–34 (Moses’ farewell),
  - c. Joshua 23–24 (Joshua’s covenant renewal),
  - d. 1 Samuel 12 (Samuel’s farewell and covenant renewal speech),
  - e. 2 Kings 23 (Josiah renews the covenant)
5. \*They installed a king, but they didn’t eliminate God’s relevance. Kingship is subject to Lordship as blessings & curses are to choice & consequences.
6. God can rebuild your life, but that doesn’t make the rubble disappear. That’s your part.
- C. **Everything in life changes & all of us are subject to change and fallout from it.**
  1. You might not control change, but it’s you who’ll make the journey harder or wiser.
  2. “Failure isn’t final but failure to change might be.” John Wooden
  3. Growth begins when we stop asking, ‘Why should I listen or move’ and start asking, ‘What might God be teaching me and where might he be leading me in these circumstances?’
- D. **Everyone pauses in change and choice and asks “Was this the right decision?”**
  1. Before-During-After; they all have their strengths and weaknesses.
- E. **OUTLINE IN HEBREW**
  1. **Section One vs. 2-6** “and now” ועַתָּה *We’atah* <sup>NIV</sup>Now you <sup>KJV</sup>And now
  2. **Section Two vs 7-12** “and now” ועַתָּה *We’atah* <sup>NIV</sup>Now then <sup>KJV</sup>Now therefore
  3. **Section Three vs 13-25** “and now” ועַתָּה *We’atah* <sup>NIV</sup>Now here <sup>KJV</sup>Now therefore

### III. LAWSUIT ONE: The People vs. Samuel: 1 Samuel 12:2-6 **And now...**

- A. vs 3 “Here I am; **testify against me** before the Lord and before his anointed [king Saul].
  1. The LORD and the new king are the witnesses preceding over the moment in court.<sup>3</sup>
- B. **Example from Ancient Near East: Confession of Innocence, Egypt:** “I have committed no injustice against men. I have not mistreated the cattle.... I have not done violence to a poor man.... I have neither increased nor diminished the bushel [defrauded anyone]”<sup>4</sup>

### IV. LAWSUIT TWO: The LORD vs. The People 1 Samuel 12:7-12 **Now therefore...**

- A. **The Patter of the Problem**
  1. **1 Samuel 12:8-11** Samuel points out the pattern of God’s deliverance and the people’s apostasy repeat *went — cried out — sent — brought out — settled* in v. 8; *forgot — cried out — sent — delivered — lived* in vv. 9–11.<sup>5</sup>
  2. **1 Samuel 12:10** 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.’
  3. **Some Examples Given by Samuel of God’s Deliverance: 1 Samuel 12:11-12**
    - a. Moses and Aaron over Pharaoh “The Egyptians” Exodus 1-14
    - b. Barak (aka Bedan) & Deborah over Sisera king of “The Canaanites” Judges 4:1-24
    - c. Gideon (also called Jerubbaal) over “The Midianites” Judges 6–8
    - d. Samuel over “The Philistines” 1 Samuel 7:3-14
    - e. Saul over Nahash, king of “The Ammonites” 1 Samuel 11:1-13
  4. **Jesus 911** (Calls for crisis) walking in his ways and living under the law.

<sup>2</sup> David Tsumura, *The First Book of Samuel*, The New International Commentary on the O.T. (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2007), 315–316.

<sup>3</sup> Diana Vikander Edelman, , *King Saul in the Historiography of Judah*, vol. 121, Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1991), 66.

<sup>4</sup> Walter Beyerlin *Near Eastern Religious Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. OTL. London, 1978. Another example in the ancient world is The Apology of Hattusili III found in William W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger, *The Context of Scripture* (Leiden; New York: Brill, 1997–), 199-204.

<sup>5</sup> David Tsumura, *The First Book of Samuel*, 322.

5. Covenant Law Language & Legal Court Language fills the chapter.

## V. THE COVENANT RENEWED: **1 Samuel 23:13-25** And now

### A. Covenant Blessings and Curses: **1 Samuel 12:13-15** cf. **Leviticus 26 & Deuteronomy 27-30**

### B. Covenant Theophany: **1 Samuel 12:16-18** “see this great thing the LORD shall do”

1. “Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord, that he may send thunder and rain.”
2. Wheat harvest took place early in Israel’s dry season (in May–June). In this period of almost complete drought,<sup>6</sup> rain was extremely rare at this time, something like six inches of snow in Miami on Memorial Day.<sup>7</sup>
3. if it rains, the wheat drinks up the water—like a sponge. So it starts trying to **sprout** (grow a little plant).
4. It turns from food to seed and radically changes.
5. **Potatoes:** A bag of Potatoes in the cabinet will go from food to seed. It sprouts root, it changes density and becomes like a sponge and produces toxins so animals don’t eat it when it’s growing.

### C. Feast of “Shavuot” (Pentecost) is **May 21-23, 2026** this year and always 50 days after Passover (Easter) **Leviticus 23:15–22 & Exodus 16:9-12.**

1. The Jews believed the Covenant and giving of the Law happened 50 days after the Exodus (Passover Feast) **b. Talmud Shabbat 86b.**
2. In Jesus’ day they read the Law and book of Ruth all night.
3. They saw this as a renewal the Covenant on this day (**Jubilees 6:12; 1QS 1:16–2:25 & 1QS 5:1–5**).
4. Everyone paused from the harvest to Give God the first 10<sup>th</sup> then would resume. They also offered bulls and sheep sacrifices. They went back and finished reaping the harvest after. We may very well be preaching this text right after the rain fell from Samuel’s storm request.
5. **Shavuot (Pentecost) and “Tongues of Fire”** = Divine presence/ God’s Torah Given / Gods approval (*Enoch 14:17; 71:5*) **Haggigah 15b-** a fire came down and enveloped Rabbi Shemon be Yochai and his son studied the Torah for forty years while hiding from persecution in a cave...as their study increased in intensity, God granted the Shekinah to manifest itself in a circle of tongues of fire which danced around them; *Bereshit Rabba 59:4-* when Rabbi Samuel ben Rabbi Isaac died...a tongue of fire descended between the funeral bier and the people. Thus they said, “See how [that tongue of fire] now stands that old man in good stead!” *Mishnah Avot 2:10, BT Ta’anit 7a* and *Y. Talmud Haggigah 2.1.1-* the Torah and authoritative teaching is symbolized by “fire”).<sup>8</sup>

### D. Lightning and the Law

1. **Exodus 19:19** Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.
2. **Exodus 20:19** Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”
3. **Lighting Storm** in Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela 150 days a year 9 hours a day with 30 per hour, 6,658 per day and 2.43 million per year.
4. Samuel likely knew that verbal truth without visual aid would leave Israel cold.<sup>9</sup>
5. For most of us we know the tender voice of Grace. But if he ever touches your ear with his wrath voice, you will beg him to never speak again!

### E. **The reign of the Prophets ends but his relevance becomes more important than ever:** This demonstrates that Yahweh will continue to speak through prophets. Israel may have a new king and a new political structure, but they must never neglect the word of the servants of Yahweh, the prophets<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> John H. Walton, *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary (OT): Joshua-1 & 2 Samuel*, vol. 2 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009), 324.

<sup>7</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, 126.

<sup>8</sup> Wave Nunnally, article “Pentecost in Context” *Dr. Central Bible College. Springfield, MO 1992.*

<sup>9</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, 126.

<sup>10</sup> Bill T. Arnold, *1 & 2 Samuel*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), 190.

1. **Matthew 23:37** “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!”
2. **2 Chronicles 36:16** But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy.

## VI. POOR CHOICES: LEARN, TURN & RETURN TO THE LORD.

**A. 1 Samuel 12:20-24** 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.** <sup>21</sup> And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. <sup>22</sup> **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.** <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. <sup>25</sup> **But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.**”

**B. The Lord will not forsake you... it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for Himself.**

1. **How can God be like that?** Perhaps our question really is: How can Yahweh be such a complex God? How can he burst into white, searing heat over our sins yet cool into warm, tender grace that refuses to destroy us? Perhaps we cannot answer, only adore.<sup>11</sup>
2. “Only when God’s people see their sin from his perspective is there hope that they will turn from it.”<sup>12</sup>
3. **Amazing Grace:** “’Twas *grace* that taught my heart to fear...”
4. There is then a dual emphasis in verses **16–25**: You must see your great evil (**vv. 16–19**) and yet you must see Yahweh’s great steadfastness (**vv. 20–25**). Only the latter can keep you from despair over the former.<sup>13</sup>

## VII. CONCLUSION

### Questions

1. **In 1 Samuel 12, Israel’s choice to have a king could not be undone. Yet God had warned them ahead of time. Looking back, Israel did not listen well to wise counsel. How well do you listen to godly feedback in your own life?**  
Can you think of a time you ignored wise advice? What happened, and what did you learn?
2. **Sometimes God speaks clearly, reasons with us, and even warns us—yet we still resist. Why do you think that happens?**  
Has there been a time when you sensed God trying to get your attention, but you did not listen? What happened, and how did it turn out?
3. **1 Samuel 12:10 shows a pattern: Israel turned from God, faced trouble, cried out for help, promised to obey, and then drifted away again.**  
Have you ever treated God like a 911 call—turning to Him in crisis but drifting when life improved? What helped you move from temporary faith to a real and lasting walk with Jesus?
4. **In 1 Samuel 12, God sends thunder and rain during harvest, bringing fear and loss to the people. Samuel connects this to the consequences of their choices under God’s covenant.**  
How does this shape the way you think about God? Do you believe God allows consequences for wrong choices? Why or why not?
5. **Read 1 Samuel 12:20–22. Samuel tells the people not to fear, but also not to turn away from the Lord. What do you think Samuel is trying to teach Israel?**  
How can we apply that message to our lives today?

<sup>11</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, 128.

<sup>12</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, 127.

<sup>13</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, 129.