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1 Samuel 12

Samuel is about to retire from his God directed service to Israel. In his address to the nation, he will call out that he listened to the people and took their grievances to God. Samuel from the beginning was opposed to Israels demand to have a king. However, when he took the grievance to God, God told Samuel that He God would give them a king, but God instructed Samuel to tell them what it meant to have a king instead of God.

Samuel asks Israel to examine what he had done and if he had wronged anyone.

Samuel's Farewell Address

1And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you. 2And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

As with the profit/priest Eli, the sons of Samuel did not honor God and were a blight on the kingdom of Israel. As with many fathers they can be blinded to the actions of their own son's.

Samuel as you recall was raised by Eli in the tabernacle of God from about 5 years old. Eli's own sons were horrible people and caused great grief for Israel. One would think that as Samuel saw that he would not allow that from his own son's.

God has always looked for those with a willing and contrite heart that would serve Him. There are examples of that throughout the Bible. These became mighty men and women of God as they served without hesitation.

Samuel the prophet would serve as the last judge of Israel.

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

One hallmark of a leader is openness and transparency, and Samuel is going to end his career as a prophet and priest of God in the same manner he served, openness and transparency.

3Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.

4And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

I wonder, how many politicians and despots, rulers and oligarchs around the world could or would stand and say those words without hearing a response.

5And he said unto them, The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

Samuel is naming two witnesses besides all the people. The first witness and God was used in this manner in ancient Israel as a witness of a covenant or legal proceeding. The second witness is the man God told Samuel to anoint as king, King Saul. Before these two main witnesses the people of Israel declared Samuel innocent of any wrongdoing.

As Samuel prepares to depart his role as Judge he wants to recall all that God had done for Israel from the time He sent Moses and Aaron to call Israel out of Egypt until the present.

6And Samuel said unto the people, It is the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. 7Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD

of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers. **8**When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place. **9**And when they forgat the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

Forgetting God became a theme with Israel. Time and time again they would fall into idol worship, disrespecting the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Serving false gods and committing acts of disobedience.

Judges 3:7 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

10And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

When things were the bleakest and their lives were in ruin, they would repent and seek God's forgiveness. God was Gracious and Merciful even through the punishment they suffered for their sin. God would save a remnant and bring them back into fellowship with Himself.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my

face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

This verse in 2 Chronicles was clearly written to Israel. Many religious people today quote this scripture. I believe the value of this statement is valid for all who love God, but let's be clear. It was written to a nation and if only part of that nation repents and turns to God I am skeptical that God will honor that nation and save them. I also believe that as Believers God will honor obedience to His Word by those who truly repent and seek God's Face. The land that God heals may not be a nation but I think the sentiment is directed toward those who repent and the way they are walking.

I think of two examples of why God is quite specific in this. The first example shows the value of just a few repenting in two towns; Sodom and Gamora.

Genesis 18: [23](#)And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? [24](#)Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? [25](#)That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? [26](#)And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. [27](#)And Abraham answered and said, Behold

*now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: **28**Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. **29**And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. **30**And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. **31**And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. **32**And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. **33**And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.*

The second example is how God responded to a cities repentance; Ninevah

*Jonah 3: **5**So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, **from the greatest of them even to the least of them.** **6**For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. **7**And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: **8**But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. **9**Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? **10**And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.*

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Again, in the first example God did not spare two cities as there were not at least 10 people who might be righteous. The point is that God knew there were not even 10 righteous so the question from Abraham was mute. My sense is that as in the second example of Ninevah it would need to be all of them for God to save the towns.

The point being this. We should all pray for America to turn from its wickedness, all of America. What are the odds of that happening? Our leaders won't even humble themselves, so how could we ever get all of America to humble itself and seek God?

11And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelled safe.

From Berean Study Bible notes:

So, the LORD sent Jerubbaal

"Jerubbaal is another name for Gideon, a judge of Israel. His story is found in [Judges 6-8](#). Gideon was called by God to deliver Israel from the oppression of the Midianites. The name Jerubbaal means "Let Baal contend," given after Gideon destroyed the altar of Baal. This act of faith and defiance against idolatry highlights God's power to use unlikely individuals to achieve His purposes. Gideon's victory with just 300 men emphasizes reliance on God's strength rather than human might.

Barak

Barak was a military leader during the time of the judge Deborah, as recorded in [Judges 4-5](#). He led Israel to victory against the Canaanite army led by Sisera. Barak's story underscores the importance of faith and obedience to God's commands, as he initially hesitated to go into battle without Deborah. His partnership with Deborah also highlights the role of women in God's plan. The victory song in [Judges 5](#) celebrates God's deliverance and the cooperation among the tribes of Israel.

Jephthah

Jephthah was a judge who delivered Israel from the Ammonites, as detailed in [Judges 11-12](#). Despite being an outcast due to his birth, Jephthah was chosen by God to lead. His story is a complex one, involving a rash vow that led to personal tragedy. Jephthah's leadership demonstrates God's ability to use flawed individuals for His purposes and serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of hasty promises.

and Samuel

Samuel was the last judge of Israel and a prophet who played a crucial role in transitioning Israel from a theocracy to a monarchy. His life and ministry are recorded in 1 Samuel. Samuel anointed both Saul and David as kings, acting as a bridge between the period of the judges and the establishment of the kingdom. His leadership and dedication to God set a standard for spiritual integrity and obedience. and He delivered you from the hands of your enemies on every side

This phrase emphasizes God's faithfulness in delivering Israel from various oppressors throughout their history. Each judge mentioned was raised up by God to rescue Israel from

specific threats, demonstrating His ongoing commitment to His covenant people. This deliverance is a recurring theme in the Old Testament, showcasing God's sovereignty and mercy.

and you dwelt securely (I want you to remember that term “and you dwelt securely)

The security mentioned here refers to the peace and stability that Israel experienced when they followed God's commands and trusted in His deliverance. This security was often short-lived due to Israel's recurring disobedience, but it serves as a reminder of the blessings that come from living in accordance with God's will. The concept of dwelling securely also points forward to the ultimate peace and security found in Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of God's promises.”

12And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God was your king. 13Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you. 14If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God: 15But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.

Samuel is about to call on the Creator of the Universe to show His omniscience. Samuel asked God for thunder and rain on the harvest day. With thunder is lightening and with rain is usually

wind. Two or three of the worst things that can happen to a farmer especially when the crop is ripe for harvest. All of this is devastating to crops. Samuel's point was that if you cannot recognize and stand on what God has done in the past, then stand on that which you will personally witness this very day.

16Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes. 17Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

Israel may have thought that by getting what they asked for that they were within God's Will. They were warned by God and Samuel that God was their King and to seek another was folly. God and Samuel were not believed so now Samuel says let's show them how large their sin really was. Crop destruction leads to famine in many cases.

18So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

The people could see that God harkened to Samuel as he had been a loyal and obedient Judge to Israel. They also knew that Samuel was the spokesman, but the real power lay with the

Creator of the Universe, and they were not safe if they did not repent of all their sin and come back to God with their whole hearts.

19And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.

I guess for a moment you could say that Israel came to their senses and saw what they had done to God. Their only hope at this time was to repent and ask Samuel the intermediary to pray for them that God would not destroy them.

20And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; 21And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.

The grand lesson to Israel and to us. If you sin, repent and return to God. Do it with your whole heart, seek God's Mercy and Grace. We do not deserve God's Mercy, but He is willing to give it to us based on what His Son accomplished on the Cross. It is called God's Grace.

God was willing to give Israel Mercy and Grace based on the Law and their obedience to the Law. God prefers Obedience over

sacrifice. Israel and we all need to be diligent in working on our obedience to God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

22For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. 23Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

Samuel says that he will continue to pray for Israel, because God had chosen them as His people. To Samuel it would be a sin to not pray for Israel. Samuel continued that he would teach them the good and right way. A teacher can teach but if a student refuses to learn, nothing is gained. And likewise, if a teacher fails to teach in Truth and Love then what is there for the student to learn?

24Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. 25But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

Anointing of God does not mitigate sin. Saul the King of Israel was not given forgiveness by God within Saul's anointing and

would suffer the consequences of his actions as would all of Israel.

Take heed this is from over two thousand years ago, but it is meant for us to learn this day in 2025. We all need to repent with our whole heart and follow after God. Jesus accomplished all that is needed to save us. Our job is obedience to God the Father as we walk out our amazing salvation through the Blood of Christ.

By walking out, I mean walking out our lives here on earth committing ourselves to sanctification, to become Holy unto God overcoming the flesh and submitting to the Holy Spirit in our individual lives.

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