**1 Sam Lesson 13**

**3. The Address by Samuel (**[**Chap. 12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12)**)**

[12:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A1-5). As **Samuel** had spoken to them earlier about his age and the imminence of his death, so now again he addressed the assembly of **Israel,** this time after Saul had become **king** and had distinguished himself. As though now to reestablish his credibility among them, Samuel asked whether or not the people had ever detected any moral or spiritual flaw in his life. (By contrast, flaws had certainly been evident in his **sons**, [8:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+8%3A3).) The answer, of course, was no. Samuel's intent was to show that just as he could be trusted in the past so his word for the present and the future could also be accepted with confidence.

***1 Samuel 12:1-25 (NASB)***  *1  Then Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have listened to your voice in all that you said to me and I have appointed a king over you.
2  "Now, here is the king walking before you, but I am old and gray, and behold my sons are with you. And I have walked before you from my youth even to this day.
3  "Here I am; bear witness against me before the LORD and 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? 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  He said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day that you have found nothing in my hand." And they said, "He is witness."*

[12:6-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A6-25). A critical point had been reached in Israel's history. **The people** had demanded and had been given **a king,** contrary to the precise purposes and will of **God.** And that king had led them to a glorious victory in his very first campaign! Now the question was, Would Israel see this victory as evidence of God's blessing and give Him the glory, or would they interpret it as a human achievement devoid of divine enablement? Samuel anticipated that question and sought to direct the people to a fresh recognition of the sovereignty of God and to the need to worship and praise Him as the Source of all their blessing. He did this first by reminding them of how God had redeemed them from **Egypt** and brought them into Canaan ([vv. 6-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A6-8)). He then recounted their disobedience under the Judges ([vv. 9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A9-11)). (**Jerub-Baal**, [v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A11), was another name for "Gideon," [Judges 6:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+6%3A32). **Barak** in the niv is lit., in the Heb., "Bedon" [see niv marg.]. Bedon was either another name for Barak or another judge mentioned only here in the OT.) Next Samuel pointed out that the Ammonite menace had prompted them to request a human **king,** a request to which **the Lord** had graciously acceded ([1 Sam. 12:12-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A12-15)). Finally **Samuel** appealed to **the Lord** to **send** a sign from heaven both to authenticate his own warnings of judgment and to cause the people to revere the God who had called them and who desired to bless and use them ([vv. 16-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A16-18)). The Lord reminded them that their insistent demand **for a king,** though He would grant it, was still an evil request because it was premature and wrongly motivated.

When **the people** witnessed the display of **thunder and rain,** a phenomenon unheard of in early summer, the time of **wheat harvest** ([v. 17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A17)), they turned **to Samuel** in earnest penitence and asked the prophet to **pray** that **God** might forgive their hastiness in seeking **a king** ([v. 19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A19)). In a marvelous manifestation of the grace of God, **Samuel** related to **the people** that God would bless them in spite of their wrong choice if they would only be steadfast in their obedience from this point on. The past could not be undone but their future was untainted and could be devoted to the Lord ([vv. 20-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A20-22)). And Samuel also, as a true mediator, pledged to keep praying for the people. (Centuries later Jeremiah spoke of Samuel as a great man of prayer, [Jer. 15:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+15%3A1).) Failure to do so, Samuel said, would be **sin against** God! ([1 Sam. 12:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A23)) If the people would respond affirmatively, they could expect God's continued blessing on their nation. But if they did not, they could expect the judgment of God on them ([vv. 24-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A24-25)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

*6  Then Samuel said to the people, "It is the LORD who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt.
7  "So now, take your stand, that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did for you and your fathers.
8  "When Jacob went into Egypt and your fathers cried out to the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron who brought your fathers out of Egypt and settled them in this place.
9  "But they forgot the LORD their God, so He sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain 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  "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 from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve You.'
11  "Then the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Bedan and Jephthah and Samuel, and delivered you from the hands of your enemies all around, so that you lived in security.
12  "When you saw that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' although the LORD your God was your king.
13  "Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen, whom you have asked for, and behold, the LORD has set a king over you.
14  "If you will fear the LORD and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the LORD, then both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God.
15  "If you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the command of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers.
16  "Even now, take your stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes.
17  "Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call to the LORD, that He may send thunder and rain. Then you will know and see that your wickedness is great which you have done in the sight of the LORD by asking for yourselves a king."
18  So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.
19  Then all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, so that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil by asking for ourselves a king."
20  Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.
21  "You must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which can not profit or deliver, because they are futile.
22  "For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased 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; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.
24  "Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.
25  "But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king will be swept away."*

**Lesson 13, Chap 12**

**Open it**

1. What sort of events are the most likely to inspire awe toward God?
 **Absolute miracles**

**Explore it**

2. What was Samuel’s age and stage of life when he made his farewell speech? ([12:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A2))
 **Old and gray, growing weary**

3. What were some of the common corruptions of power in the days of ancient Israel? ([12:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A3))
 **Fraud, oppression, bribes**

4. How did the Israelites judge Samuel’s honesty and integrity? ([12:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A4))
 **As a true man**

5. For what sin did God punish Israel by defeat at the hands of the Philistines and Moabites? ([12:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A10))
 **They had forsaken the Lord and worship Baal and the Ashtaroth**

6. What was the most recent sin of which Samuel accused Israel? ([12:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A12))
 **Of wanting a king they had chosen rather than the Lord God as King**

7. Why did Samuel feel that Israel didn’t need a king? ([12:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A12))
 **The Lord as King enough**

8. What sign did Samuel perform to convince the people that they had displeased God? ([12:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A16-17))
 **Thunder and rain**

9. According to Samuel, why are idols "useless"? ([12:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A21))
 **They are futile, and which do not profit or deliver**

10. Why would God not reject Israel despite their unfaithfulness? ([12:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A22))
 ***For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself***

11. What two things did Samuel ask the Israelites to do in order to avoid God’s wrath? ([12:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A24))
 **Fear the Lord and serve him in truth with all your heart, considering the great things he has already done for you**

12. According to Samuel, what would be the consequence if Israel continued to do evil? ([12:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A25))
 **If they do not repent both them and their king will be swept away**

**Get it**

13. What is the meaning of the expression, Israel "forgot the Lord their God"?
 **They served other gods and forgot the Lord God**

14. What is it about calamity that causes people to reassess their attitudes and deeds?
 **They see death, great problems in front of them**

15. Why would rain at harvest time inspire awe of God and His prophet?
 **It wasn’t time for the rains to come, harvest time was during a dry time**

16. How is the living God set apart from useless idols?
 **The living God responds to prayer, idols do not**

**Apply it**

17. How might you present your requests to God so that you invite His best in your life?
 **Make your prayers heartfelt and modeled after the Lords prayer in structure**

18. What is one personal story of God’s deliverance that could remind you to "fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart" this week?
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