

1 Samuel 12

King James Version (KJV)

12 And 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. (The word "And" connects this verse to the last verse of Chapter-11. Samuel must have made this speech while they were in Gilgal, making thank offerings to God)

(They wanted a man king. Samuel warned them that a man king would take the best for himself and put your children to work for him. The people wouldn't listen so God gave them a man king)

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.

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. (Samuel hadn't done anything wrong as a Judge of Israel. He was always fair and did as God commanded. He treated all people fairly)

⁴And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand. (The people agree with Samuel. He was a good judge. So, why did they demand a man king?)

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. (Again, the people agree before God that Samuel was a righteous judge)

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. (God saved them, not Moses or Aaron. No man can save you. Only God can do that)

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. (Israel changed from a theocracy to a monarchy)

(They will get mostly evil rulers from here on out. Only a few kings will be righteous. They should have remained a theocracy. God never failed them)

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. (Samuel is giving them a history lesson, to remind them of how God was good to them and how He delivered them)

⁹ And when they forgot 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. (Jaban was king of Hazor. Sisera was his general during the judgeship of Deborah. Eglon was the king of Moab as mentioned here)

¹⁰ And 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. (Baalim & Ashtaroth – Canaanite deities) (The Israelites kept going back to idolatry, over and over)

¹¹ And 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. (Jerubbaal = let Baal plead his own cause or fight his own battles; they gave this name to Gideon after he destroyed a Baal altar during the night)

(Bedan = Barack- who with Deborah defeated Sisera, In the Septuagint, Aramaic and Arabic translations – Bedan is named Barack)

¹² And 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. (Nahash = snake; see this book, chapter 11)

(They wanted a man king instead of God; even though God was the reason that they not only survived, but received a country and prospered therein. Never underestimate the stupidity of men and their leaders)

¹³ Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you. (You asked for it, you got it; an ass keeper who can't find his own donkeys)

Note: (People who would surrender their essential liberty for temporary security deserve neither liberty, nor security. – Benjamin Franklin)

¹⁴ If 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: (IF you stay true to God and He will save you and your king)

¹⁵ But 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. (But if you leave God, He will leave you. And no man king will be able to save you then)

NOTES: (Look at the US today. The politically correct liberals are going against God with abortion, homosexuality, perversion, war mongering for profit, etc)

(The result is that we are hopelessly in debt, and have enemies on all sides. We get weaker while the communists get stronger. Our economy is in shambles, while the ultra rich control our corrupt government)

(Judgment day will come for us; and it will be painful for many people)

¹⁶ Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes. (This is the Leader that you are rejecting)

¹⁷ Is 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. (This is judgment on the people; for rejecting God as their king, and asking for a man king)

¹⁸ So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. (This alone should have been enough to wake them up. People get pretty stupid when they are on top. Their own ego becomes their enemy)

¹⁹ And 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. (the LORD thy God – NOT- the LORD our God; and yet, they are asking Samuel to intercede with God for them)

²⁰ And 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; (Repent and God will forgive you. It's not too late - yet)

²¹ And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. (vain = void, empty < tuhu in the Hebrew>; it's the same word as in Genesis-1:2)

²² For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. (That was because of Abraham, not because of these idol worshippers. Abraham loved and obeyed God. He was loyal to God all his life)

NOTE: (God loves us. HE can bless us just like He blessed Abraham; if we remain true to Him and live a healthy happy life by His Ten Commandments. God doesn't ask much from us, and in return He blesses us and cares for us, regardless of what happens in this world)

Revelation-4:11 (God created all people for His pleasure)

²³ Moreover 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: (Although they traded God and Samuel for a man king, Samuel and God will not abandon them. Samuel will continue as a prophet of God as long as he lives. By now, we was an old man)

²⁴ Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. (Don't forget all the blessings that God has bestowed upon you. Thank Him for them)

(This is always good advice for people everywhere)

²⁵ But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king. (consumed = scattered – better translation)

(They did, and they were. The same condition applies to all Christians today. No government can save you if you turn against God. Only He can give us salvation and eternal life)