

## 1 Samuel Lesson 17 Samuel Addresses the New King and The People- Part Two

### Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

### Background:

**Divine Kingship:** Ever since the Book of Exodus, God has been portrayed as their warrior- king. It was Yahweh who fought their battles for them. In the Book of Joshua we see that the Israelites' victories are Yahweh's victories. Up to the Book of 1 Samuel, Yahweh did not have an earthly counterpart. Now, Saul, as king, would be that earthly counterpart and it would be his role to reflect Yahweh's rule in heaven.

**Wheat Harvest:** Rain during June and July, the months of the wheat harvest in Palestine, was almost unknown. A heavy rain at that time would have the potential to damage the crop.

### Key Words:

**fear:** Strong's H3372 "yare" to reverence honor ,or respect

**listen:** Strong's H8085 "shama" to hear intelligently, to listen with the intent to obey

At the end of Chapter 11 of 1 Samuel, all the people of Israel assembled at Gilgal and made Saul king. In chapter 12 we read of Samuel's address to the people there at Gilgal in which Samuel hands the reigns of government over to Saul. Samuel began by clearing himself of any misconduct during his time of leadership. He then reminds them of all the great things Yahweh, their warrior- king, has done for them and their fathers. In this lesson we continue on with Samuel's address to the people.

### Read 1 Samuel 12: 12-25

1. In 1 Samuel 12:12 we read that Samuel has told the people that their request for a king was sinful because it came from fear of their enemies. He also implied that they rejected Yahweh as their king by not trusting Him to defeat their enemies. He then pointed out to them God's grace in giving them the king they wanted. Now in 12:14, what does Samuel say that both the people and the new king need to do and for what purpose?

**Application:** How can you apply Samuel's commands to the people to your own walk with the Lord? What does each command look like in actual practice in your life?

2. In 12:15 what did Samuel tell them not to do and what would be the consequences if they did? What are some of the spiritual consequences today when we knowingly disobey the Lord?

3. In 12:16-18 what does the Lord do as a result of Samuel's prayer and how did it confirm Samuel's exhortations to the people? What effect did it have on the people in 12:19?

4. In 12:20-23, when the people are convicted of their sin, how does Samuel reassure them and give them hope for the future? What does Samuel promise to do for them?

**Application:** When we sin as believers, what are the Lord's instructions for us? See 1 John 1:7-9. According to 1 John 2:1-2 who prays for us when we sin and on what basis are our sins forgiven?

5. In 12:24-25 Samuel ends his address to the people. What does He tell them to do and what does he warn them against? Why do you think Samuel has told them the same thing so many times?

**Application:** How can looking back on all the times God has delivered us in our lives help us to "fear Him, serve Him, and obey Him.? Have you ever experienced this in your own life?

