

SAMUEL

Samuel the Kingmaker; Saul's Impatient Mistake
1 Samuel 12-13

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Contrast #1 seen in Samuel's Speeches

1 Samuel 8:10-18 Warning Against Kings

A King will take what he wants:

Sons & daughters

Fields & vineyards

Male & female servants

Livestock and crop yields

A King will force your service:

Plow & reap

“You shall be his slaves”

1 Samuel 12:1-5 “Testify Against Me”

Samuel has:

Made a king over them

Taken nothing

Defrauded no one

Oppressed no one

Taken no bribe

Offered to restore anything taken

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Samuel Set the Standard

Samuel's treatment of Israel has been fair & just

He's not bragging on himself

He's setting the standard for Saul and those who follow him as king

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1 Samuel 12:6-18

1. God never abandoned Israel, even in their sin.
2. Conditional Success
 - a. It will be well if...
 - i. “you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel”
 - b. The Lord’s hand will be against you if...
 - i. “you will not obey the voice of the Lord but rebel against the commandment of the Lord”
3. What is demonstrated in v.16-18?

12:19-25 Samuel's New Role

The people repent and ask for forgiveness after Samuel's demonstration in v.16-18.

Reminder that God has not forsaken and will not forsake

What is indicated by Samuel in v.23-24?

He will still serve as priest and prophet

Praying for Israel

Instructing Israel

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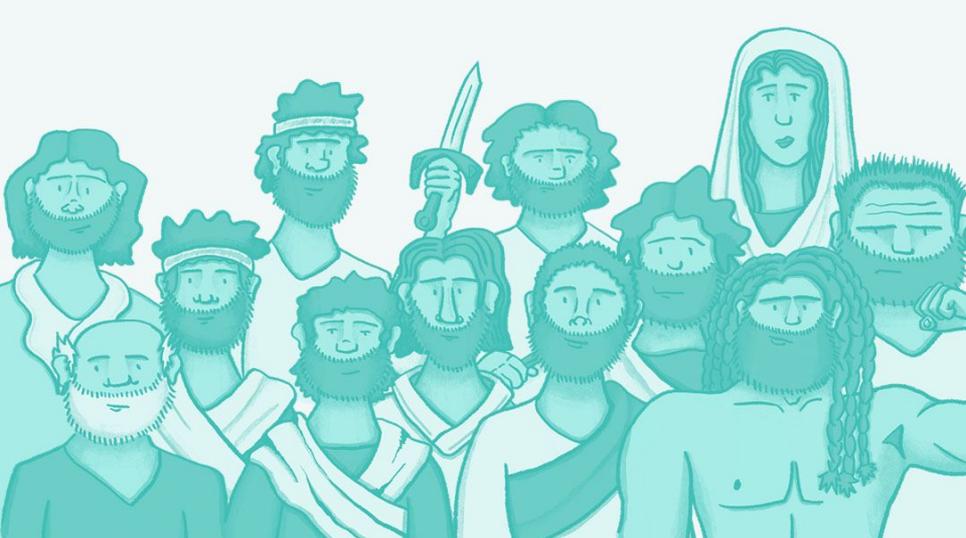
The Era of Israel's Judges Ends

1398 BC – 1053 BC

From Joshua's speech in
Joshua 23/24

through

Samuel's speech in 1
Samuel 12



1 Samuel 13-15
Yahweh's Rejection of Saul &
The Rise of David

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1 Samuel 13:1-7

Why did Israel want a king/Why is Saul king?

To lead Israel in battle; esp. against the Philistines

Jonathan comes into the scene by starting war with the Philistines

- Saul is forced into a difficult situation
- The Philistines are angry
- Israel is scared

Philistia's Advantages

1. **Numbers** 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and “troops like sand on the seashore”
2. **Detachments** Philistia's numbers allow them to split into “raiding parties” without risking defense (v17-18)
3. **Equipment** monopolized metallurgy to create superior weaponry (only Saul & Jonathan are properly armed for Israel)

Saul's Impatience/Anxiety

Saul was told to wait for Samuel 7 days (10:8)

After 7 days

- The people are scattering
- The Philistines are threatening
- Samuel isn't there

What would you do as absolute ruler?

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Saul is not the absolute ruler

Although Saul is king, Yahweh still rules Israel

Samuel comes and condemns Saul's actions

- “What have you done?”
- “I forced myself and offered the burnt offering”
- “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God.”

Saul Punished

What was Saul's punishment?

- “Your kingdom shall not continue.”
 - God would have established his line forever
 - Now Jonathan will not succeed Saul as king
- “The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart”
 - Heart ≠ Emotion/Favor
 - Heart = Will/Understanding

What precisely was Saul's sin?

Taking for himself the authority that was Yahweh's

- Contrast 1 Sam 11:6–11 with chapter 13
 - a. What language is missing?
 - “The Spirit of God”
- Structure of Saul's sin:
 - a. Pressure from surrounding circumstances; **fearing**
 - b. Self-doubt & insecurity; **not relying on God**
 - c. Taking matters into his own hands; **rebellious**