

# SAMUEL'S ARRAIGNMENT OF ISRAEL

[BIBLE TEXT](#): I Samuel 11:14, 15; 12:1-25

LESSON 206 Junior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Thou hast proved mine heart; . . . thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing" (Psalm 17:3).

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### **1 Samuel 11:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

<sup>15</sup> And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

### **1 Samuel 12:1-25**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> And 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.

<sup>3</sup> Behold, 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> And 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.

<sup>6</sup> And 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.

<sup>7</sup> Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the

## BIBLE REFERENCES:

### NOTES:

#### **Great Joy in Israel**

There was great rejoicing among the Israelites. Their king had been anointed; and in his first test he had proved himself brave in battle and able to organize and lead a great army. God had given him victory over the Ammonites; and the Israelites could imagine a bright future with Saul as their leader. Surely Saul was everything they had desired in a king.

However, that joy was not of God. They were happy because they were having their own way. In the days to come they were going to have cause to repent of their willfulness.

#### **The Coronation**

It was now time for Saul's reign to begin, and Samuel called all the people to Gilgal for the coronation. There before the Lord, amid sacrifices and offerings, Saul was crowned king of Israel. "And all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly."

After the coronation, Samuel made a very important speech. He reminded the Israelites that they now had a king because they had begged for one, and not because it was the will of God, and that any evil that might come to them through the monarchy would be their own fault. In contrast, he told them that he had governed them in obedience to the will of God. All the days of his life he had walked among them and had hidden nothing from them that he had done. From the time he was a child he had devoted his life to pleasing God and helping the people.

Now that his life was nearing its end, he asked the people to judge him. Had he ever taken anything of theirs as might a ruler who had the power to do so? Had he ever taken a bribe to make a decision in their favor? Never had he wanted anything they had, nor had he oppressed them in any way. Would the Israelites witness that he had always been just and righteous? The people agreed that Samuel had been just as he had said. They had no complaint against the way he had governed them.

Samuel asked not only the people to judge his works, but he also asked God, who sees the thoughts and intents of the heart, to be a witness that he had always done the right thing. Samuel's first thought had been to please God. In the Word we read: "There is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts" (II Chronicles 19:7); and God wants His children to be like Him here, while we live on this earth. If we ask Him, God will give us the power to live just as Samuel did, so that no one will be able justly to find fault with what we do.

#### **God's Leading**

Samuel next asked the Israelites to consider their history. It had been God who had raised up Moses and Aaron to lead their forefathers out of Egyptian bondage. It had been the Lord who had clothed them and given them food to eat during their forty-years' wandering in the wilderness. And when Israel had sinned, God had justly let punishment come upon them to show them they had sinned. He had fought their battles, and led them into a

LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, *and* whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.

<sup>14</sup> 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:

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.

<sup>17</sup> *Is it* not wheat harvest to day? I

good land.

Samuel now asked the Israelites if they could not see that there was but one Almighty God, only one God who loved righteousness, and who had mercy and pity upon His people. What other god could have led a band of people as God had led the Israelites?

God had raised up judges to govern the Israelites when they had been in need. Military leaders had been appointed by God who could lead their armies into certain victory. All this God had done for His people because he loved them and because of His covenant with Abraham.

### Ungratefulness

Were the Israelites grateful? No, they had turned their back on their heavenly Leader and had demanded a king. "Now therefore," said Samuel, "behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired!" He wanted them to know that he had had no part in asking for a king.

Moses, too, had had to deal with such ungratefulness among the Israelites. He once asked, "Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?" (Deuteronomy 32:6).

We feel sorry for parents who, in their old age, are forsaken by their children, children for whom they have worked hard and made sacrifices and devoted their love. But what about forsaking our heavenly Father who does everything for us that we will allow Him to do? He once called the Israelites His vineyard, and asked: "Judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?" (Isaiah 5:3, 4). What more could God have done for us to make us ready for Heaven? He sent His only Son to die for us; and Jesus gave all that He had, and bore our sins on Calvary, that we might be saved. He has sent the Spirit into the world to woo us into the Kingdom of God, and to guide us into all truth. What more can He do? Do we appreciate His love and sacrifice?

### The King's Duty

Samuel did give the Israelites a little hope. If the people and their king would obey the commandments of God, He would still bless them and prosper them. If the king would fear God, he would receive wisdom to rule well and be good to his subjects.

God had known that Israel would want a king, and had asked Moses to write down the duties of such a king. This is what Moses wrote: "And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: and it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: that his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left" (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).

### Rain in Summer

Samuel had given ample proof to the people that the God of Heaven was the only God, but he offered one more sign. It was the time of the wheat harvest, when it never rained in Palestine. But now Samuel said, "I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain." This was to prove to the Israelites how foolish they had been to reject the Almighty God

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.

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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;

<sup>21</sup> And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go* after vain *things*, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> 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:

<sup>24</sup> Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.

<sup>25</sup> But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

who ruled even the elements, and to ask for a mere man to rule over them. God answered the prayer of Samuel and sent thunder and rain. The people were so frightened that they thought they were going to die. Their conscience hurt them for their disobedience when it seemed as if judgment was falling.

The Israelites cried unto Samuel: "Pray for thy servants." They admitted they had been wrong in asking for a king, and they wanted Samuel to stand between them and an offended God. Samuel assured them that God was not going to destroy them.

God had indeed been displeased with their request for a king; but *r my* that their king had been crowned, God would again be good to them if they would obey Him in the future. All the world was looking on the progress of the Israelites, knowing they were God's chosen people; so, for His own honor and glory, He would prosper Israel whenever possible. But woe unto them if they disobeyed again!

### QUESTIONS

- 1 How did Israel receive their king?
- 2 How had Samuel governed Israel?
- 3 What did the people say about Samuel's leadership?
- 4 Why did the Israelites want a king instead of a leader like Samuel?
- 5 What did Samuel say to the Israelites to prove that God had been with them in the past?
- 6 What sign did Samuel give to prove that God was listening to their requests?
- 7 What were some of the rules which God told Moses that the king should write in a book, for kings to follow?
- 8 Why was God going to bless Israel even though she had a king?