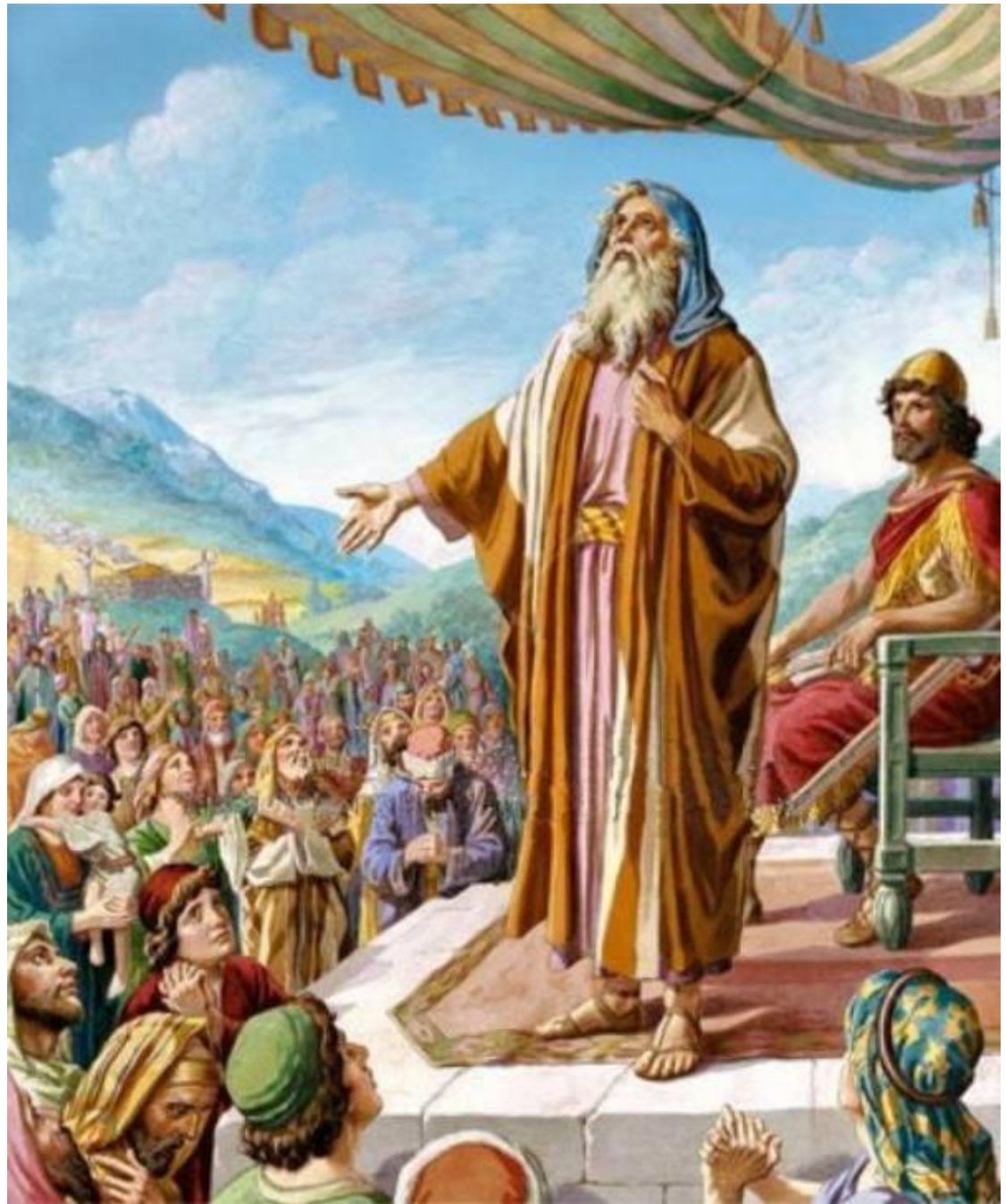


A True Servant

Sunday

Nov. 7, 2021



Previous Lesson

- Nahash the Ammonite came up against Jabesh Gilead;
- The men of Jabesh wanted to make a covenant with Nahash, the condition being all their right eyes would be put out.
- They cried out to Saul who sent out to the people to gather to help fight Nahash.
- Great victory was given and Saul was crowned King.

In this lesson

- Look at Samuel's (Swan Song) final speech to Israel.
- Remember Moses' and Joshua's last words to Israel.
- See a picture of the Lord Jesus interceding in prayer for his own.
- See the importance of prayer.

Samuel's Address at Saul's Coronation

- **1 Samuel 12:1-2 (NKJV)**

¹ Now Samuel said to all Israel: "Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you.

² And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons *are* with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

- **1 Samuel 12:3-5 (NKJV)**

³ Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received *any* bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore *it* to you."

⁴ And they said, "You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand."

⁵ Then he said to them, "The LORD *is* witness against you, and His anointed *is* witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they answered, "*He is* witness."

- **1 Samuel 12:6-8 (NKJV)**

⁶ Then Samuel said to the people, "*It is* the LORD who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt.

⁷ Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did to you and your fathers:

⁸ When Jacob had gone 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 made them dwell in this place.

- **1 Samuel 12:9-11 (NKJV)**

⁹ And when they forgot the LORD their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them.

¹⁰ Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.'

¹¹ And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety.

- **1 Samuel 12:12-14 (NKJV)**

¹² And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God *was* your king.

¹³ Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen *and* whom you have desired. And take note, the LORD has set a king over you.

¹⁴ If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God.

- **1 Samuel 12:15-17 (NKJV)**

¹⁵ However, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as *it was* against your fathers.

¹⁶ "Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes:

¹⁷ *Is* today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness *is* great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking a king for yourselves."

- **1 Samuel 12:18-21 (NKJV)**

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 And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves."

²⁰ Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

²¹ And do not turn aside; for *then you would go* after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they *are* nothing.

- **1 Samuel 12:22-25 (NKJV)**

²² For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.

²³ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the 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, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

Samuel's Swan Song

- After a great victory over the Ammorites in chapter eleven, Saul is made king over Israel by the prophet Samuel. Chapter twelve was Samuel's swan song, his final speech to the nation. He tells them,
- “the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.” “Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart;
- for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”
1 Samuel 12:22-25
- Samuels address reminds of Moses’ and Joshua’s final addresses to Israel.

Moses

- I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.” Deut. 30:19-20

Joshua

- “Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:14-15

Reminding of the past

- And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons *are* with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.
- Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received *any* bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore *it* to you."

- Then Samuel said to the people, "*It is the LORD* who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt. Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did to you and your fathers:
- He reminds them of Jacob going into Egypt, of the LORD sending Moses and Aaron, who brought them out of Egypt. And when they forgot the LORD He sold them into the hand of Sisera, the Philistines, and Moab. When they cried out to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and we will serve You' , the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Bedan (Barak), Jephthah, and Samuel (He includes himself), and delivered them. When the Ammonites came against them they said to Samuel, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God *was* their king.

Key things we see

- As Samuel continues to speak to the people, he deals with some key doctrines in the Bible. First, he reminds them of the **sovereignty of God and His power** ([vs. 8](#), [22](#)). Secondly, he reminds them of the **sinfulness of men and their tendency to forget God**. Treasures From the Scriptures
- V 16 -18 The wheat harvest that Samuel spoke of was at the end of the dry season in late May or early June. If a great thunderstorm were to occur at this time of the year, it would be considered rare, almost a miracle. It would also be considered a burden because it could rot the wheat harvest.
Treasures From the Scriptures

- Samuel preaches up a storm. The storm was God's "Amen" on Samuel's ministry. The people wake up! They knew what was wrong in their lives. Treasures From the Scriptures
- Samuel asks the Lord to send a storm . God answered with a storm causing the people to fear greatly.
- Stark **fear** gripped **the people** and they implored **Samuel** to **pray for** them. His prayer had brought down judgment; it could also bring down mercy. To this he replied with another appeal to follow **the LORD**; that was the way to avoid judgment. As for him, he couldn't stop praying for them; Believer's Bible Commentary

- God is reminding them they still need to make the Lord their king. No one is exempt from God's law. He assures them the Lord will not forsake them either. Treasures From the Scriptures
- Samuel disagreed with Israel's decision for a king. He promised to keep praying for them. You may disagree with others, but don't cease to pray for them. Samuel prayed habitually, ungrudgingly, and fearfully. It is interesting to note that not once do we read of Saul praying for his people. Treasures From the Scriptures

Interceding prayer

- **1 Samuel 12:23** Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.
- **John 17:9 - 15** “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.”
... I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Pray

- Pray without ceasing. 1 Thes. 5:17
- For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, Colossians 1:9
- Therefore we also pray always for you...
2 Thessalonians 1:11
- pray for one another, The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
James 5:16
- Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.
3 John 1:2

- A Christian woman teaching in Africa wanted to help her students to remember to pray. She came up with a brilliant method to help them. Holding up her arm she said, "When I am ready to pray, I look at my left hand." She then used her hand and fingers to teach them how to pray.
- My **thumb** is closest to me which reminds me to pray for those near me... my family, friends, and neighbors.
- My **index finger** is my pointing finger and it reminds me to pray for my teachers and preacher who point out things to me and instruct me.
- My **middle finger** is my largest one and stands over the others. It reminds me to pray for the rulers of our nation and those in authority.
- My **fourth finger** is my weakest finger. It makes me think of those who are helpless, sick, poor, and need my help.
- My **pinky finger** is the smallest and last one. It stands for me. I pray for myself and the things that I need from the Lord.
- The children understood and never forgot this lesson. I think it is simple enough for us to use too! Treasures From the Scriptures