

**BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL**  
**SAMUEL REPROVES THE NATION**  
**I SAMUEL 12**

**Introduction**

Having found the man for the job, Samuel once more called the nation together for the public presentation and coronation. (vs 1-2)

It was a sad occasion for the old prophet. He knew the people he had loved and served all his life were acting in stubborn disobedience to the revealed will of their God.

Although he would remain their spiritual leader, he must now give up the political leadership to another.

**I. SAMUEL VINDICATES HIS OWN STEWARDSHIP.**

He publicly calls for the witness of any who could lay charges of malfeasance, injustice, or self-serving against him. (vs 3-5)

It was the undisputed testimony of the nation that this servant of God had never failed to render impartial justice, and had not enriched himself by his office.

What a change of atmosphere we might have in our own nation if every public servant from the rookie policeman to the highest government leader would begin his office by pondering Samuel's challenge and seeking to emulate his record.

**II. SAMUEL'S FAREWELL ADDRESS. (vs 6-12)**

It was a rehearsal of the honor and faithfulness of the God whose rule they were rejecting.

He drove home the great contrast between the consistent faithfulness of the LORD God and their own continual unfaithfulness.

Demanding a king was only the most recent example of their faithlessness. Yet even now God was giving them the desire of their hearts. (vs 13)

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**III. SAMUEL'S CHALLENGE OF A NEW OPPORTUNITY.**

Undoubtedly, in the time Samuel had spent with Saul before this occasion, he had instructed him in the duties of a king.

God, foreseeing that His people would make this choice one day, had previously incorporated these duties into the law.

**Deuteronomy 17:14-20**

- 1) **The ruler of God's people was not to be motivated by aggressive personal ambitions or the love of power—** therefore, he should not multiply horses (the ancient instrument of aggressive warfare) to himself.
- 2) **He was not to be self-indulgent and immersed in pleasure—** therefore, he should not accumulate a harem (as has been the custom of oriental monarchs from ancient times).
- 3) **He was not to be covetous for wealth.** (A form of idolatry.)
- 4) **He was to spend his time in meditating on God's law.** The Word of God was to be his companion constantly, and the chief subject of his thoughts.

This was the same command Joshua had received when he inherited the place of leadership from Moses. (**Joshua 1:8**)

In God's ideal government, a nation is not ruled by man, regardless of whether they come to their position by conquest, inheritance, or election.

God's law is to be king, upheld and administered by leaders who themselves present an example of adhering to it faithfully.

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**A. The Duties Of Those Ruled.**

On this occasion of formally inducting their new king, Samuel did not dwell on the duties of the ruler, but on those of the ruled—the citizens.

Although their form of government was changing, their responsibilities were not. **(vs 14-15)**

They and their king were primarily responsible to obey God and follow His commands.

Even though they had rejected the Lord, He had not forsaken them. **(vs 22)**

To be sure they understood that His displeasure was very great and that their sin was not being winked at, the Lord, at Samuel's call, sent a thunderstorm on their harvest—an unheard of phenomenon for that time of year in Palestine. **(vs 16-18)**

The dry season begins in late April and continues through the harvest season into September or October.

It had its desired results in bringing them to confess their sin and plead with Samuel to intercede for them. **(vs 19)**

**B. Samuel's Faithfulness.**

Once more Samuel demonstrates God's faithfulness to His people.

Samuel, the man the LORD had given them as an undershepherd, had been cruelly hurt and rejected by these people, yet his love and service to them remained constant.

He did not rejoice over their plight, but comforted and encouraged them. **(vs 20-22)**

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His warnings were given in love, and he acknowledged that it would be sin on his part should he ever cease to pray for them. **(vs 23-25)**

**Conclusion**

The faithfulness of this servant of God was a reflection of the faithfulness of the God he represented.

Our faithfulness as servants of God should also be a reflection of the faithfulness of the Savior that we represent!