

I. Introduction and review.

II. You had no good reason to seek a king! v. 1-12

- A. I (Samuel the Judge) have served you with integrity. v. 1-5**
- 1. I transferred my power and authority to the king you requested. v. 1**
 - 2. I have served you all of my life. v. 2 3:10,19ff**
 - 3. I have never abused my power for personal gain. v. 3-4 8:11-18 Num. 16:15 Acts 20:33 II Sam. 11:4 Dt. 28:33 16:19 Am. 4:11 5:12 Ex. 23:8 I Tim. 3:3**
 - 4. God Himself bears witness on my behalf. v. 5 Josh 24:21**
- B. God has acted righteously and graciously in keeping His covenant with you. v. 6-11**
- 1. The LORD's prophets often give His people a history lesson to remind them of His covenant faithfulness. v. 7 Josh. 24:2-15**
 - 2. Through Moses and Aaron He brought you out of Egypt. v. 6,8 4:8 6:6 10:18 Ex. 6:13,26-27 2:23-25 3:10**
 - 3. Even when you rebelled in the days of the Judges, after you repented and cried out, He delivered you again and again. v. 9-11 7:2ff Judg. 2:14 3:7ff 4:2ff 10:7ff**
 - 4. The key to security and peace is keeping covenant with the LORD! 11:13**
- C. In spite of God's perfect faithfulness, you wickedly sought a king. v. 12 8:5,7,19-20 Judg. 8:22-23**
- D. Application: Where do you turn when facing a crisis? Jer. 17:5-8**
- 1. Do you recall God's previous faithfulness to you?**
 - 2. Do you confess your sin and cry out to Him?**
 - 3. Or do you seek help from people?**
 - 4. Where does the church turn for strength?**

III. In spite of your sin, the LORD will bless you if you are faithful to His covenant. v. 13-18

- A. You and your king remain accountable to the LORD v. 13**
- 1. How can Samuel say both that they have chosen a king and that God has appointed the king? 8:7,18,20 10:24 Gen. 50:20 Hos. 13:10-11**
 - a. Their sin was not so much in seeking a king as their motives for seeking a king.**
 - b. God works His good purpose even through our sinful failures. Ro. 8:28**
 - c. His purposes will be established through the monarchy.**
 - 2. Both Israel and her king are responsible to keep covenant with God.**
 - 3. Both blessing and cursing are possible for you and your King.**
- B. If you are faithful to the LORD and His covenant, He will bless you with the benefits of covenant obedience. v. 14 Dt. 17:18ff 28:1ff Josh. 24:14-15**
- C. If you again turn from the LORD, then He will bring the curses of covenant disobedience upon you. v. 15 5:6 Dt. 8:19 28:15ff Josh. 1:18 24:20 Lev. 26:14ff**
- D. Behold the power of the LORD. v. 16-18**
- 1. The LORD accompanies Samuel's prophetic word with a sign. Ex. 14:13,31**
 - 2. Rain was not in the forecast. Pr. 26:1 28:3**
 - 3. The people fear the LORD (and Samuel). 7:10 Ex. 14:31 19:16 20:18**

IV. Turn to the LORD and He will bless you (and your king). v. 19-25

- A. The people repent of their sin and plead with Samuel to intercede for them. v. 19**
- B. Samuel reassures the people and makes his final appeal to them. v. 20-25**
- 1. How can Samuel say, ‘Do not fear’ right after (and immediately before) he tells the people to ‘fear the LORD’? v. 14,20a,24 Prov. 1:7 Ps. 25:14**
 - 2. If you and your king follow and serve the LORD with all your heart you will be blessed. v. 20,24 Dt. 10:12-13 11:13-14 30:19-20 Ecc. 12:13.**
 - 3. Do not turn from God to worthless things or you will be cursed. v. 21,25 Gen. 1:2**
 - 4. The LORD will not abandon you because His reputation is at stake. v. 22 Josh. 7:9 Ex. 32:12-14 Nu. 14:15-19 Eze. 36:22-32 I Ki. 8:42 Jer. 44:26 Dt. 7:7-8 Gen. 15:4ff**
 - a. His Name would be dishonored if He were to cast you off. v. 22a**
 - b. You are His people, not because you deserve it, but by His choice. v. 22b**
 - 5. I (Samuel) will continue to pray for you (priestly ministry) and teach you (prophetic ministry). v. 23 7:5 8:6 Jer. 15:1 Ps. 99:6**
- C. Application: How are we (the church) like Israel?**
- 1. We too will be blessed if we serve the LORD with all our hearts, but if we are unfaithful we will face the consequences. Mt. 6:24,33 Rev. 2-3**
 - 2. We too are prone to wander off after worthless things/idols. Col. 3:5**
 - 3. Because of our sin we need a Mediator with God. I Tim. 2:5**
 - 4. We too are a chosen people. I Pe. 2:9**
 - 5. God saves and keeps us, not because we deserve it, but for His own glory. Ti. 3:5**
 - 6. God still works out His purpose in our lives in spite of our sins and failures. I Co. 6:9-11 Ro. 8:28 I Jo. 1:8ff**
- D. Application: Samuel sets an example for our spiritual leaders. Acts 6:4 20:18ff**
- 1. He faithfully prays for the LORD’s people. v. 23a Ro. 1:9f Col. 1:9 II Th. 3:10**
 - 2. He faithfully instructs them in the Word of God. v. 23b,7 Acts 20:20 II Ti. 4:1ff**
 - 3. He practices what he preaches. v. 3-5 I Tim. 3:1-7**

V. Concluding applications.

- A. What is the main point of this passage? In spite of your sin, God offers you and your king great blessings for covenant obedience.**
- B. Where can we see Christ in this text?**
- 1. Our true King has come. Mark 1:14-15**
 - 2. He is blameless in character. Luke 23:4,14 Heb. 4:15 7:26 Ro. 8:33-34**
 - 3. He is the Priestly intercessor we need. Heb. 7:25 Rom. 8:34 I Tim. 2:5 Is. 53:12**
 - 4. He is the Prophet Who perfectly instructs us in God’s Word. Jo. 1:1ff 6:68 15:15**
- C. You face a choice. v. 14-15**

Discussion questions

- 1. Why was Israel wrong to demand a king?**
- 2. Why is God’s history with His people important?**
- 3. What are the essential demands, curses, and blessings of the Old Covenant?
How do the demands, blessings, and curses of the New Covenant compare?**
- 4. How is the church like Israel was in Samuel’s day?**
- 5. On what basis does Samuel give hope to faithless Israel?**
- 6. In what ways does Samuel set an example for our spiritual leaders?**
- 7. Do we also have a ‘prophetic’ function to the world?**
- 8. How can we exercise our priesthood in praying for other believers?**
- 9. What is our ground of assurance of God’s faithfulness to us?**