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## Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

### Session 13 – I Samuel 11-12

Our study has shifted from 12 sessions on certain Old Testament Kings to a more complete Old Testament study of I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, and I & II Chronicles. This will enable us to see much about human nature, sin, disobedience vs obedience, Christ, and his accomplishments, who we are, and how we can change to become more Christlike, to become living epistles in our day and time.

We will not read every verse of every chapter. The student should do this to fill in the gaps between what is covered in these teachings.

### I Samuel 11

Saul has been crowned king. Saul is somewhat overlooked because he preceded David who gets so much attention and focus. However a great deal can be learned by studying the life of Saul. Most of it is not good. In the early verses of Samuel 11 Saul defeats the Ammonites. We will begin in verse 6.

#### **I Samuel 11:6**

**6** And the **Spirit of God rushed** upon Saul when he heard these words, **and his anger was greatly kindled.**

The spirit of God working within, and anger are not mutually exclusive. He was angry that God's people were being threatened.

**7** He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!" Then the dread of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out as one man.

Saul rallies the children of Israel with a threat, they come out as one man...unified and determined!

**8** When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

So the 330,000 united Israelites defeated the Ammonites with a great victory.

**14** Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom."

Here we see the great and obedient heart of Samuel. He had not wanted a king, knowing that God did not want a king and respecting that God should be their king. But now that God has given them Saul as king Samuel supports the decision and Saul.

**15** So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Saul was made king before the Lord in Gilgal. ESV note indicates this was probably a religious ceremony. It is a time of great rejoicing. This marks Samuel as the final judge and begins the era of a king over the Children of Israel rather than a judge.

## 1 Samuel 12

Chapter 12 is referred to as Samuel's farewell address. It is unknown when and where this transpires. It marks this transition from the period of judges to the reign of kings over Israel. In it he pleads with the Children of Israel and the king for their obedience to God's commandments

**1** And Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. **2** And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. **3** Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or, whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me<sup>a</sup> and I will restore it to you."

Samuel is establishing that he has been honest and upright walking before them with integrity and transparency. He did not use his position to take advantage of anyone. Many times I have mentioned "Ministry Watch", a publication that exposes improper behavior and frauds in ministry. It grieves me that there has to be such an organization. If ministers would only fulfill their calling with honesty and integrity as they are commanded in I Timothy.

### I Timothy 4:11-16

**11** Command and teach these things. **12** Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Set an example, live the Word, be the living Word.

**13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. **14** Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. **15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them,<sup>c</sup> so that all may see your progress.**

Even leaders still need to grow and one's progress should be noticeable and visible.

**16** Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Keep a close watch on your behavior and on the doctrine. (Not looking at and criticizing others.) Faithful. Daily. Lifetime-long. You will save yourself from going astray, not salvation as in the new birth. Your example and words will help those around you to stay on track as well.

We tie together the Old and New Testaments because God's will is consistent throughout time. God is holy, and He has always wanted his people to be holy as well. Just a quick search turns up these examples:

### Leviticus 11:44

For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

**Leviticus 11:45**

I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.”

**Leviticus 19:2**

“Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

**Leviticus 20:26**

Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

**1 Peter 1:16**

because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

**Leviticus 20:7**

You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God.

**1 Peter 1:15**

but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

**Leviticus 21:8**

You shall consecrate him, therefore, for he offers the food of your God; he shall be holy to you; for I the Lord, who sanctifies you, am holy.

**Deuteronomy 23:14**

Since the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you or He will turn away from you.

**I Samuel 12**

**4** They said, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man’s hand.” **5** And 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 said, “He is witness.”

Samuel has established that he has lived a holy life before them. He has never taken any bribes. The people agree. What a witness! In our last session we looked at Paul in the New Testament who knew how to abound and how to be abased. He went on preaching whether it was a time of plenty or a time of lack in his life.

Now Samuel is going to bring back to remembrance their history:

**6** And Samuel said to the people, “The Lord is witness,<sup>b</sup> who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. **7** Now therefore **stand still** that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers. **8** When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them,<sup>c</sup> then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.

Look at ALL GOD HAS DONE for you! Stand still and listen.

**9** But they forgot the Lord their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor,<sup>d</sup> and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them.

He is pointing out their human tendency to FORGET. (Gives summaries of Judges.)

**10** And they cried out to the Lord and said, **'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.** But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, **that we may serve you.**

Reminding them of the pattern throughout the judge's period.

The great key here is to repent. To acknowledge one's sin and turn around. Why had they served the Baals and the Ashtaroth? Because they had not driven people out and were instead influenced by them. Ask for deliverance in order to serve God.

Reminds of John 14:13

#### **John 14:13-14**

**13** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask me<sup>e</sup> anything in my name, I will do it.

The context is doing the works of Christ. God will provide you with what you need to carry out His will. It is not a license to pray for anything under the sun and expect God to provide it.

Mathew 6 comes to mind also in the section about not being anxious.

#### **Matthew 6:31-33**

**31** Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

This fits perfectly with the Old Testament and bringing the Children of Israel into the promised land where they would enjoy houses they had not built and vineyards they had not planted. Why? So that they could be free to worship and serve God rather than be concerned about survival. God will provide all we need to carry out our service to HIM. He is consistent. He is not providing for us just so we can eat, drink, and be merry.

**11** And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak<sup>e</sup> and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety.

This reminds us again of I Timothy.

#### **I Timothy 2:1-4**

**1** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, **that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.** **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

We pray for our political leadership so they may LEAVE US ALONE to do God's work!

## I Samuel 12

**12** And when you saw that Nahash the 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** And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you.

Ok you clamoured for a king. Now! You have your king.

**14 If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well.**

If they had just obeyed this ONE VERSE, all would have been well! A huge IF/THEN. But they didn't follow, they did rebel, so all was not well!

### Numbers 15:39

**39** And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, to do them, not to follow<sup>e</sup> after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after.

God repeats this message over and over again in Numbers and Deuteronomy because he is trying to get through to them that obedience is good for them. All will be well if they obey!

**15 But if** you will 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 and your king.**<sup>f</sup>

Previously the consequences were directed at the people. Now they will be against the people and their king! This is repeated twice establishing it. Now just STAND STILL and listen to me. Samuel is begging them to listen to him and carry this out.

The king needs to be onboard with doing God's Word. The king can lead them in doing God's Word or the king can lead them astray. The king was to have a copy of the law in his own writing. When he was anointed Samuel wrote again what he was to do.

**16** Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes.

Sound familiar? Verse 7. Stand still. Begging them to please listen! Samuel wants to impress on them that He is speaking for God. He is going to ask God for a sign.

**17** Is it not wheat harvest today? **I will call upon the Lord, that he may send thunder and rain.** And you shall know and **see that your wickedness is great**, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, **in asking for yourselves a king."** **18 So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day**, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

This is a great key for us. We have all made huge mistakes in our lives. We have sinned. God wants us to acknowledge that sin but then move on with Him. He does not want us to wallow in guilt and carry that guilt around with us.

Yes, your wickedness is great in asking for a king. Nonetheless God is moving forward with them. God's mercy, grace, forgiveness, longsuffering is on full display in the way he deals with us.

God wanted them to fear Him, be in awe of Him. Think again of Ezekiel. Sixty-five times he declares "Then you will know that I am the Lord your God". You are going to receive the consequences of your disobedience and THEN you will know that I am the Lord!

God is giving them another chance here, in spite of their wickedness in asking for a king if they will just get with the program, listen, obey they will dwell in safety.

**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 this evil, to ask for ourselves a king."

They had seen people stoned to death for disobedience in Old Testament records.

**20** And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord but serve the Lord with all your heart.

What? You just scared the pants off of us and now you tell us to not be afraid! He is getting them to acknowledge the reality...

In 2023 we need to look around us and decide not to follow the world in its sinfulness and rebellion but to follow the Word!

**21** And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.

Don't follow the adulterous options all around you. Not the worthless things of the world...money, sex, things that can't profit. The only way is to invest one's whole heart. God's Word is profitable.

### **II Timothy 3:16,17**

**16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God<sup>b</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.

V. 21 could be written to Christians in 2023. Things around us are dressed up to look desirable but they are empty!

Fast forward to the time of some of the last kings with Jeremiah's warnings.

### **Jeremiah 2:5**

**5** Thus says the Lord: "What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, **and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?**

Some translations render this they went after empty things and became empty.

Why do we do that? We will look at this in detail in our next session.

**6** They did not say, 'Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?'

Hey look! God almighty brought us through. He took care of us in a place where no one goes because it is so barren. But we went there and lived because we were under God's care and provision.

**7** And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.

**8** **The priests** did not say, 'Where is the Lord?' **Those who handle the law** did not know me; **the shepherds<sup>a</sup>** transgressed against me; **the prophets** prophesied by Baal and **went after things that do not profit.**

The priests, the leaders, the shepherds, the prophets...EVERYBODY went after things that did not profit.

1050 BC Samuel wrote warning and instructing

620 BC Jeremiah wrote warning and instructing

2023, almost 3,000 years later we have leaders who don't know God, who are disobedient and transgress.

God's Word is Profitable!

#### **I Samuel 12:22**

**22** For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.

The Lord will not forsake his people. He makes people for Himself. God wants to be in intimate relationship with man. We saw this from the beginning in Genesis 1. It is still the same today. God seeks for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**23** Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, **and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.**

Samuel knows they are nincompoops, but he is not going to sin by not praying for them. They just saw God answer the prayer of Samuel to send thunder and rain. They know God answers the prayers of Samuel.

**24** Only **fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.**

What an opportunity was presented to these people. God is God and we are not!

**25** **But** if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, **both you and your king."**

This is exactly what happens.

In 722 BC the northern 10 tribes were taken captive by Assyria.

In 587 Babylon takes and sweeps them into captivity.

Perhaps, just perhaps we should fear the Lord and be obedient so we can have the blessing of God in our lives!

