

## VV STUDY NOTES: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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### 1 Samuel 12: 1-25 (Samuel's farewell address)

Saul had been declared king in Gibeah after Samuel had led them through the selection process by the casting of lots. The early part of his reign was marred by a faction that questioned the selection, presumably because he was from a small family of the tribe of Benjamin.

After the defeat of the Ammonites, that objection has been overcome, and Samuel had called the whole nation to Gilgal where he was reaffirmed as king by the whole nation. He had now proved himself in battle with a great victory. He was 30yrs old when he became king and reigned for 42 yrs. On that basis he died when he was 72. That raises significant questions.

#### What we don't know!

- We are not told where they started counting the years of his reign.
- We are not told how much time passed between the first declaration of the kingship and the second one.

#### What we do know!

- In the next chapter Jonathan, his son is OLD ENOUGH to lead part of the army.
- In this part of the story Saul had not had any battles with the Philistines.
- Samuel's farewell address is only given after the second affirmation of Saul's kingship.

**## Would these time anomalies suggest that the early part of Saul's kingship was crippled by the dissention caused by him being a Benjamite?**

**## Would Samuel have been responsible in his duty to God and the nation if he had thrown in his oversight responsibilities prior to the unified acceptance of Saul's kingship?**

***The reason for my emphasis on the TIME ANOMOLIES is that we have 40yrs of history packed into a small amount of space, with overlapping stories without the date references that are common in modern historical writing, when the writers look a differing aspect of the developing history. When we invented a BCE dating that problem was solved and it became more possible to approximate the dates of past events. The writer of the OT could not do that, and for them the stories were the most important. Time anomalies were not on their agenda.***

**12: 1-2** Samuel is making it clear that this is the end of his POLITICAL leadership of the nation, but his actions confirm that his call to spiritual leadership is still intact.

**12: 3-5** Samuel seeks acknowledgement of the integrity of his own leadership.

**## Was Samuel being VAIN in bringing this issue before the people?**

**## Was Samuel drawing a line between himself and his Sons, who the people already believed to be corrupt?**

**## Would YOU ever want to walk in Samuel's shoes?**

## **SAMUEL'S WARNINGS OVER REQUEST FOR A KING**

### **1 Sam 10: 9-26**

When the people originally asked for a king. Initially Samuel anointed Saul without anyone's knowledge. Saul never even told his uncle what Samuel had done. When the people gathered at Mispah, and the lots were cast. It eventually led to Saul's selection. Saul himself was so fearful of the challenge that he hid in the baggage.

When he was declared king by the people, Samuel explained what God expected as the RIGHTS and DUTIES of kingship and WROTE these down. (v. 25-26). Not everyone recognized him as king.

**## Did Saul realize that there was dissent about him?**

**## His hiding in the baggage indicated self-doubt and fear, is that understandable?**

**## Is it possible that Saul may have taken a low profile for several years?**

The issue of the Ammonite threat which we studied last week, stirred him to action and led to the re-affirmation of his kingship.

Samuel's farewell address was the FORMAL RESIGNATION from his POLITICAL ROLE.

Immediately he puts on his second hat (PRIEST & PROPHET) and spells out a series of warnings concerning the future of the kingdom.

**12: 6-11** Samuel recalls the history of God's goodness to Israel and their constant failure to respond by their sins, and the worship multiple other God's.

**## Is this pattern of recalling the past failures of Israel something we see in both OT & NT?**

**## Would the rivalry between the tribes and within the tribes pain the heart of God?**

### **12: 16-22**

**## Was this act of punishment appropriate to the circumstances of the occasion?**

**## What is the significance of (v 22) in the light of this moment?**

### **12: 23-24**

Samuel's personal commitment to teaching, ministry, and prayer on behalf of the nation.

**## What does that tell us about the quality of Samuel as a man of God?**

### **12: 25**

**YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR LEADERSHIP ALL YOU WANT.**

**GOD IS STILL GOD, and his expectations for each of US and for HIS PEOPLE never change!**

**## WHAT IS GOD'S EXPECTATIONS FOR US ? (Isn't it interesting that all the different perspective within our studies bring us back this point)?**