

May 1, 2016

Kings and Prophets 1 Samuel 11-12 By Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 6 Num. 18

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In Chapters 11 and 12 of 1 Samuel, we see Saul establishing himself as king. The Spirit of the Lord comes on Saul as he leaps into action to save a city of Israelites from the Ammonites. Despite the warnings from Samuel, the people establish Saul as king and seek to follow him. At this point, Saul is following after the Lord, along with the people of Israel. God continues to honor the people, keeping them safe from their enemies as they learn of their mistakes and try to follow exclusively in God's ways. The theme of "obedience brings blessing" is clear here, as well as for most of the Old Testament. Fortunately, we do not have to live perfectly in the ways of the Lord to be saved because the sacrifice of Christ has set us free from sin and death.



Read 1 Samuel 11-12 (NET)

11 ¹ Nahash the Ammonite marched against Jabesh Gilead. All the men of Jabesh Gilead said to Nahash, "Make a treaty with us and we will serve you."

² But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "The only way I will make a treaty with you is if you let me gouge out the right eye of every one of you and in so doing humiliate all Israel!"

³ The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Leave us alone for seven days so that we can send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. If there is no one who can deliver us, we will come out voluntarily to you."

⁴ When the messengers went to Gibeah (where Saul lived) and informed the people of these matters, all the people wept loudly. ⁵ Now Saul was walking behind the oxen as he came from the field. Saul asked, "What has happened to the people? Why are they weeping?" So they told him about the men of Jabesh.

⁶ The Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and he became very angry. ⁷ He took a pair of oxen and cut them up. Then he sent the pieces throughout the territory of Israel by the hand of messengers, who said, "Whoever does not go out after Saul and after Samuel should expect this to be done to his oxen!" Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they went out as one army. ⁸ When Saul counted them at Bezek, the Israelites were 300,000 strong and the men of Judah numbered 30,000.

⁹ They said to the messengers who had come, "Here's what you should say to the men of Jabesh Gilead: 'Tomorrow deliverance will come to you when the sun is fully up.'" When the messengers went and told the men of Jabesh Gilead, they were happy. ¹⁰ The men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will come out to you and you can do with us whatever you wish."

¹¹ The next day Saul placed the people in three groups. They went to the Ammonite camp during the morning watch and struck them down until the hottest part of the day. The survivors scattered; no two of them remained together.

¹² Then the people said to Samuel, "Who were the ones asking, 'Will Saul reign over us?' Hand over those men so we may execute them!" ¹³ But Saul said, "No one will be killed on this day. For today

the Lord has given Israel a victory!" ¹⁴ Samuel said to the people, "Come on! Let's go to Gilgal and renew the kingship there." ¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, where they established Saul as king in the Lord's presence. They offered up peace offerings there in the Lord's presence. Saul and all the Israelites were very happy.

12 ¹ Samuel said to all Israel, "I have done everything you requested. I have given you a king. ² Now look! This king walks before you. As for me, I am old and gray, though my sons are here with you. I have walked before you from the time of my youth till the present day. ³ Here I am. Bring a charge against me before the Lord and before his chosen king. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I wronged? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I taken a bribe so that I would overlook something? Tell me, and I will return it to you!"

⁴ They replied, "You have not wronged us or oppressed us. You have not taken anything from the hand of anyone." ⁵ He said to them, "The Lord is witness against you, and his chosen king is witness this day, that you have not found any reason to accuse me." They said, "He is witness!"

⁶ Samuel said to the people, "The Lord is the one who chose Moses and Aaron and who brought your ancestors up from the land of Egypt. ⁷ Now take your positions, so I may confront you before the Lord regarding all the Lord's just actions toward you and your ancestors. ⁸ When Jacob entered Egypt, your ancestors cried out to the Lord. The Lord sent Moses and Aaron, and they led your ancestors out of Egypt and settled them in this place.

⁹ "But they forgot the Lord their God, so he gave them into the hand of Sisera, the general in command of Hazor's army, and 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 admitted, 'We have sinned, for we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the images of Ashtoreth. Now deliver us from the hand of our enemies so that we may serve you.'

¹¹ So the Lord sent Jerub-Baal, Barak, Jephthah, and Samuel, and he delivered you from the hand of the enemies all around you, and you were able to live securely.

¹² “When you saw that King Nahash of the Ammonites was advancing against you, you said to me, ‘No! A king will rule over us’—even though the Lord your God is your king! ¹³ Now look! Here is the king you have chosen—the one that you asked for! Look, the Lord has given you a king! ¹⁴ If you fear the Lord, serving him and obeying him and not rebelling against what he says, and if both you and the king who rules over you follow the Lord your God, all will be well. ¹⁵ But if you don’t obey the Lord and rebel against what the Lord says, the hand of the Lord will be against both you and your king. ¹⁶ “So now, take your positions and watch this great thing that the Lord is about to do in your sight. ¹⁷ Is this not the time of the wheat harvest? I will call on the Lord so that he makes it thunder and rain. Realize and see what a great sin you have committed before the Lord by asking for a king for yourselves.” ¹⁸ So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord made it thunder and rain that day. All the people were very

afraid of both the Lord and Samuel. ¹⁹ All the people said to Samuel, “Pray to the Lord your God on behalf of us—your servants—so we won’t die, for we have added to all our sins by asking for a king.” ²⁰ Then Samuel said to the people, “Don’t be afraid. You have indeed sinned. However, don’t turn aside from the Lord. Serve the Lord with all your heart. ²¹ You should not turn aside after empty things that can’t profit and can’t deliver, since they are empty. ²² The Lord will not abandon his people because he wants to uphold his great reputation. The Lord was pleased to make you his own people. ²³ As far as I am concerned, far be it from me to sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you! I will instruct you in the way that is good and upright. ²⁴ However, fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. Just look at the great things he has done for you! ²⁵ But if you continue to do evil, both you and your king will be swept away.”

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. In 11:6, why does Saul become angry?

9. Why does Saul cut up the oxen and send the pieces throughout Israel?

10. In 12:3, why does Samuel ask the people if there is any charge they can bring against him?

11. In 12:17, why does Samuel pray for a thunder storm?

12. In 12:17, Samuel tells the people that asking for a king was wicked, but he also indicated in verses 14 and 15 that if the people and the king follow God then they will be blessed. Why does God allow the king and a potential blessing if asking for a king is wicked?

13. How do we see God showing grace in these chapters?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

14. The people demanding a king and then God using him for good is an example of God being able to use less than perfect decisions for good. Do you know any examples in your life of God using a bad decision or circumstance for good?

15. This passage clearly shows the idea that obedience brings blessing. Do you think the idea of obedience brings blessing holds true in New Testament times and today?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES