### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 12

1There, SamuEl spoke to all the people of IsraEl and said,  
  
 ‘Look; I’ve listened to everything that you’ve asked and I’ve given you a king to rule over you… 2So now you can see that you have a king who’s leading you!  
  
 ‘As for me... I’ve grown old and I’m ready to retire (although my sons are still among you), for I’ve been your leader since I was very young.  
  
 3‘Yet look, I’m here!  
  
 ‘So, testify to this before Jehovah and His anointed one:  
  
 ‘Whose calf or burro have I taken?  
  
 ‘Whom have I tyrannized or pressured?  
  
 ‘And from whose hand have I taken a bribe or even a sandal?  
  
 ‘Tell me what I’ve taken and I’ll return it all to you!’  
  
4But they all replied to SamuEl:  
  
 ‘You haven’t wronged us or tyrannized us, nor have you taken anything from us… Not a single thing.’  
  
5Then SamuEl said to the people:  
  
 ‘So, Jehovah is my witness among you today, as is His anointed one here, that you haven’t found anything in my hands that I’ve taken from you.’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘It’s a fact.’  
  
6So SamuEl said:  
  
 ‘Then Jehovah – the One who prepared Moses and Aaron and that led our ancestors out of Egypt – is my witness!  
  
 7‘And now I’m going to judge you before Jehovah, and I’m going to remind you of all the righteous things that Jehovah has done for you and for your ancestors.  
  
 8‘After Jacob and his sons moved to Egypt, the Egyptians made them slaves. So our ancestors called to Jehovah and He sent them Moses and Aaron... These [men] then led our ancestors out of Egypt and settled them here.  
  
 9‘But [our ancestors soon] forgot Jehovah their God, so He gave them into the hands of SiSera (the commander-in-chief of JabIsh and the king of Hazor), then into the hands of the Philistines, and thereafter into the hands of the MoAbites… And they had to go to war with [each of] them.  
  
 10‘But when they called to Jehovah and admitted that they’d sinned by abandoning Him to serve the BaAls and the sacred poles, and they asked Him to rescue them, 11Jehovah sent JeroBaAl, then BarAk, then JephThah, and finally SamuEl.  
  
 ‘So, He’s continued to save you from the hands of your enemies who live all around you, and now you’re finally starting to feel safe!  
  
 12‘However, when you saw NaHash (the king of the sons of AmMon) coming against you, you said:  
  
 ‘We want a king to rule over us!’  
  
 ‘Yes, even though our God Jehovah is really your king!  
  
 13‘So now, look!  
  
 ‘Here is the king whom I got for you and whom you chose.  
  
 ‘And because it was Jehovah who appointed him as your king, 14you must serve Jehovah and listen to His voice… Don’t argue with Him! Both you and the king who rules over you must continue to follow Jehovah your God!  
  
 15‘And if you ever stop listening to the voice of Jehovah and you start arguing with Him, His hand will come against both you and your king.  
  
 16‘Now, stand here and behold the great thing that Jehovah is going to do before your eyes today! 17Since this is the time of the wheat harvest, I’m going to call to Jehovah, and He will send thunder and rain... Then you’ll see and understand what a bad thing you did before Jehovah when you asked for a king!’  
  
18So at that, SamuEl called to Jehovah and He sent thunder and rain that day, which caused the people to fear both SamuEl and Jehovah. 19Then the people begged SamuEl to pray to his God Jehovah on their behalf, so they wouldn’t die for the great sin of asking for a king.  
  
20But SamuEl told them:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid because of the bad things you’ve done; rather, be in fear of ever turning away from Jehovah again!  
  
 ‘You must keep on serving Him wholeheartedly!  
  
 21‘Never turn back to those other things that amount to nothing, for they can get you nothing, and they can’t rescue you from anything, because they’re in fact nothing at all!  
  
 22‘Never allow Jehovah to be pushed away from His people again, because His Name is great, and He chose you to be His people.  
  
 23‘Now as for me... May I not sin against Jehovah by ever ceasing in my prayers for you to live good and straight lives.  
  
 24‘But you must fear Jehovah and truly serve Him with your whole hearts, because you’ve seen all that He’s done among you! 25And if you ever turn back to doing bad things and become evil and start sinning again, your king will be numbered among your dead!’