

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
LESSON 7
SAUL'S SHORT-LIVED KINGDOM
1 SAMUEL 12-14
WEEK OF OCTOBER 25 – OCTOBER 30**

Chapter 12 is a continuation of Samuel's coronation message from the end of **Chapter 11**. These three chapters mark the beginning and the end of Saul's kingdom because of his refusal to trust God and obey His commandments. Saul demonstrated that he was not "a man after God's own heart". We will see that man, David, replace Saul as the anointed king in **Chapter 16**.

As we study **chapters 12-14**, ask God to use His word to expose areas of your life to the many truths and examples we will encounter in these three chapters. May each of us grow in our love for the Lord and desire to humbly submit to Him as a result of message and lessons in these passages.

Read 1 Samuel Chapter 12 Samuel Reminds People of Rejection of the True King - God's Grace extended to Sinning People and Samuel's Warning

1. How does Samuel show God's faithful pattern of deliverance of His disobedient people in **verses 6-11**? How did the people of Israel respond to those historical threats in these verses?

2. **Verse 12** starts with "*But*" which is typically used to show a contrast from scripture or truth recorded in preceding passages. How did Israel respond differently to the threat from Nahash?

3. In **verse 13**, Samuel reminds the people they asked for a king and Yahweh gave the king they requested. From Samuel's prophetic message in **verses 14-15**, what instruction and warning does he give? In **verses 16-18**, how does Yahweh confirm that Samuel's message came from Him?

4. After Israel confesses their sin in **verse 19**, what instruction does Samuel give in **verses 20-21**?

5. In spite of the sin of the Israelites, how are you encouraged by **verses 22-23**?

Read 1 Samuel 13 Saul's Great Disobedience Paves the Way For God's Choice of King

6. From **verses 13:1-4**, who achieved the victory over the Philistines and who took credit for it? Read **Proverbs 11:2, 16:5, and 16:18** and identify Saul's sin.

7. Reread **1 Sam. 10:8** as a reminder of Samuel's instruction to Saul. From **1 Sam. 13:5**, when the Philistines threatened Israel with a huge force, what pressures did Saul face in **verses 6-8**? How did Saul sin in **verse 9**?
8. Samuel confronts Saul in **13:11**. Rather than repenting with brokenness over his sin, how did Saul respond in **verses 10-12**? In what ways do we do the same when our sin is exposed?
9. What is the consequence for this sin that Samuel pronounces in **verses 13-14**? What is revealed about Saul's successor? From **1 Sam. 16:13**, who is that successor?

As we conclude **chapter 13, verses 19-23** paint a picture of the helplessness of the Israelites in the presence of the much stronger war machine of the Philistines. But, God often uses impossible appearing situations to bring great glory to Himself and to demonstrate His providence and protection of His redeemed. "Faith arises in such a situation because it looks not to circumstances, but to God." *Id.* pg 143.

We see that as we move to **Chapter 14**.

Read 1 Samuel 14 Yahweh Gives Victory, While Saul's Prideful Foolishness Displayed

10. Summarize the account of the battle that Jonathan initiated in **verses 14:6-23**. What was Jonathan's great statement of faith in **14:6**? Who provided victory in **verse 23**?
11. In **verse 24**, the soldiers of Israel had fought hard and were in need of nourishment and refreshment, but what foolish and prideful rule did Saul impose in **14:24-26**?
12. In **verses 31-33**, what were the consequences suffered by the people as a result of Saul's legalistic rule? In **verses 43-46**, how did Yahweh protect Jonathan through the voice of the people? What did the people recognize in Jonathan?

Chapter 14 concludes in **verses 47-52** with a brief description of Saul's family and a summary of some of his military campaigns. Two things stand out in this section; (1) The worldly accomplishments and successes of Saul are not an indication that Saul has any personal spiritual vitality or life, and (2) God is faithful to protect and preserve Israel regardless of the leadership of the people.

Application:

As you consider this account in what ways and under what circumstances are you trusting in man, your own wisdom, human resources or government rather than God?