

1 Samuel 12: Samuel's speech

vv. 1-5: SAMUEL IS VINDICATED. HE CLAIMS ON HIS BEHALF:

Behold! I have listened to you (the people)
I have set a king over you; behold, he leads you now
Behold, I have led you from my youth to this day
Behold, here I am: testify against me before YHWH and his messiah
I have taken no ox
I have taken no donkey/ass
I have taken nothing by fraud
I have not oppressed anyone
I have not taken a bribe
The people all agree

vv. 6-13: YHWH IS VINDICATED AND ISRAEL IS INDICTED. SAMUEL CLAIMS:

When "Jacob" (Israel) was in Egypt and they cried out to YHWH, YHWH sent Moses and Aaron to bring them out of Egypt
When they forgot YHWH, YHWH sold them into the hands of Sisera of Hazor, the Philistines, and the Moabites.
When the people cried out to YHWH again and admitted their sin of worshiping foreign gods, YHWH sent judges (Jerubbaal, Barak, Jephthah and (Samson [LXX]/Samuel [MT]) to rescue them.
When they saw King Nahash of the Ammonites, *they called for a king, though YHWH was their king.*
And so, *here is the king YHWH has set over you!*

vv. 14-25: SAMUEL'S ADMONITIONS TO THE PEOPLE

IF you fear YHWH
and serve him
and hear his voice
and don't rebel...
AND *if you and the king follow YHWH...*

But if you will not listen
And rebel
Then *YHWH's hand will be against you and your king*

So, take your stand
It is the wheat harvest, and so that you know *your wickedness in demanding a king*, I will call YHWH to send a thunder-storm on your harvest [and it happens]

And the people cry out in fear of YHWH and Samuel and call Samuel to pray for them.

Samuel replies:
Do not be afraid.
You have done evil, but don't turn aside from following YHWH
Serve YHWH with all your heart
Do not turn after chaotic things that cannot profit or save
YHWH will not cast you away, for YHWH's own name's sake
I will not sin by ceasing to pray for them and continuing to instruct them in the "good and right way"

But fear YHWH
Serve YHWH faithfully
Consider the great things YHWH has done for you
But...if you continue to act wickedly, *you and your king will be swept away.*