

# SAMUEL'S ARRAIGNMENT OF ISRAEL

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : 1 Samuel 11:14, 15; 12:1-25

LESSON 206 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up" (1 Samuel 2:7).

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### 1 Samuel 11:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

<sup>15</sup> And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

### 1 Samuel 12:1-25

<sup>1</sup> And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

<sup>2</sup> And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons *are* with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

<sup>3</sup> Behold, here I *am*: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received *any* bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.

<sup>4</sup> And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

<sup>5</sup> And he said unto them, The LORD *is* witness against you, and his anointed *is* witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, *He is* witness.

<sup>6</sup> And Samuel said unto the people,

## BIBLE REFERENCES:

### I The Establishment of Saut's Kingdom at Gilgal

1 Saul was not unanimously accepted as king at Mizpeh,

#### 1 Samuel 10:26-27

<sup>26</sup> And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

<sup>27</sup> But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

2 His first victory united Israel under him,

#### 1 Samuel 11:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

<sup>2</sup> And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this *condition* will I make a *covenant* with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it *for* a reproach upon all Israel.

<sup>3</sup> And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if *there be* no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

<sup>4</sup> Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

<sup>5</sup> And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What *aieth* the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.

<sup>6</sup> And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

<sup>7</sup> And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

<sup>8</sup> And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

<sup>9</sup> And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by *that time* the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed *it* to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you.

<sup>11</sup> And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

3 God could work through him at first because of his excellent spirit,

#### 1 Samuel 1:11-13

<sup>11</sup> And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

<sup>12</sup> And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the

*It is* the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>7</sup> Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.

<sup>8</sup> When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place. <sup>9</sup> And when they forgot the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

<sup>10</sup> And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

<sup>11</sup> And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelled safe.

<sup>12</sup> And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God *was* your king.

<sup>13</sup> Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, *and* whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.

<sup>14</sup> If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:

LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

<sup>13</sup> Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

#### **1 Samuel 15:17**

<sup>17</sup> And Samuel said, When thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

4 Reconsecration and praise always bring joy, I Samuel 11:14, 15;

#### **Psalms 50:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

<sup>15</sup> And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

#### **Psalms 50:23**

<sup>23</sup> Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth *his* conversation *aright* will I shew the salvation of God.

## **II Samuel's Arraignment of Himself Before Israel**

1 God granted Israel's demands for a king, I Samuel 12:1;

#### **1 Samuel 8:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

<sup>5</sup> And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

<sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

#### **1 Samuel 8:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

<sup>20</sup> That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

<sup>21</sup> And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

2 Samuel apparently gave his sinful sons over to Israel for judgment, I Samuel 12:2

3 Israel was asked to witness against Samuel if they had been wronged, I Samuel 12:3;

#### **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

<sup>7</sup> I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

4 Samuel was vindicated by Israel, I Samuel 12:4, 5;

#### **2 Corinthians 4:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

<sup>2</sup> But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

#### **Titus 1:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

<sup>8</sup> But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

<sup>9</sup> Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught,

<sup>15</sup> But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as *it was* against your fathers.

<sup>16</sup> Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.

<sup>17</sup> *Is it* not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness *is* great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

<sup>18</sup> So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

<sup>19</sup> And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king.

<sup>20</sup> And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

<sup>21</sup> And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go* after vain *things*, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain.

<sup>22</sup> For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

<sup>23</sup> Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

<sup>24</sup> Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.

<sup>25</sup> But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and

that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

### III Samuel's Arraignment of Israel Before the Lord

1 Samuel reminded them that promotion is from God, I Samuel 12:6;

#### **Psalm 75:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

<sup>7</sup> But God *is* the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

#### **Romans 13:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

<sup>2</sup> Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

<sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

<sup>4</sup> For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.

<sup>5</sup> Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

<sup>6</sup> For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

<sup>7</sup> Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

2 Samuel's vindication meant that Israel was automatically arraigned, I Samuel 12:7

3 He rehearsed Israel's deliverances in the past, I Samuel 12:8-11

4 In spite of God's providence, Israel rejected God as their King, demanding a king like the other nations, I Samuel 12:12, 13

### IV Mercy and Justice

1 Mercy was still extended in spite of rejection, I Samuel 12:14;

#### **Isaiah 9:12**

<sup>12</sup> The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.

#### **Isaiah 9:17**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one *is* an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.

#### **Isaiah 9:21**

<sup>21</sup> Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: *and* they together *shall be* against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.

#### **Psalm 103:17**

<sup>17</sup> But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

#### **Micah 7:18**

<sup>18</sup> Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy.

#### **Romans 10:21**

<sup>21</sup> But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

#### **Romans 11:32-36**

<sup>32</sup> For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

your king.

<sup>33</sup> O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!  
<sup>34</sup> For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?  
<sup>35</sup> Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?  
<sup>36</sup> For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

**Titus 3:5**

<sup>5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

2 The consequences of continued disobedience are apparent, I Samuel 12:15; Romans 6:23

3 A sign of God's displeasure was sent to them, I Samuel 12:16-18

4 Israel's repentance brought them encouragement and an exhortation to serve God, I Samuel 12:19-25

**NOTES:**

**The New King**

Humble in heart and attitude toward God and toward man, Saul, the new king of the hundreds of thousands of Israelites, turned toward home after his anointing by the Prophet Samuel and the events which immediately followed. No doubt he was filled with wonder and astonishment at the fast-moving events of the few days past which had seen him singled out from among thousands of young men who seemed to him more eligible than he — men gifted in leadership and administration — for his family was one of the smallest in Israel. Perhaps he wondered just what should be his next step, since he was now appointed by God and accepted by a great number of the Israelites as their king. We have every reason to believe that he went to his home to await the Lord's work and command.

Saul was little in his own sight. He felt that his abilities were inadequate for the decisions that were before him and the leadership he must undertake. God can use men who have that mind and heart. God cannot use anyone who is self-sufficient, self-satisfied, or self-willed. There is no anointing for such a one. It is only the person who is willing to subject himself to God and to the Holy Spirit, and to surrender his will and desires, his plans and ambitions, his successes and accumulations to God and to the Holy Spirit, that may receive the divine anointing that is so vital to spiritual success.

**Unity, a Sublime and Necessary Virtue**

A small band of faithful men had responded to the call of God and followed Saul to his home city. But there were some who rebelled against the leadership of the new king. They were men of Belial, men of sin and vanity; and they knew not and cared not for the will of God in this or in any other matter. They may have been few in number, but their presence meant that Israel was not perfectly united.

We are told at least twice, in Scripture, that "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (**1 Corinthians 5:6** <sup>6</sup> Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? **Galatians 5:9** <sup>9</sup> A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump). One so-called "little sin" will cause a complete separation from God. "Little foxes" can spoil the most healthy and fruitful vine, if allowed to nibble unmolested. An unremoved bruise can turn a luscious piece of fruit into a mass of worthless corruption in but a



few hours of time.

But Saul, himself, did not evidence any impatience at this time, lest he go ahead of the Lord by any action he might take against this attitude of rejection of both God and himself by these men. He held his peace. It is a fact that God will deal with the erring ones if we do our best to keep the channels through which He works free from human interference. God loves His people, and will do all within His power to prepare them for the Heaven He is preparing for them. And, at the same time, God will defend His people, even when hell's full resources seem to be brought against them in false accusations. He says in His Word that if, when we do well, we suffer for it and take it patiently, this is acceptable with God (**1 Peter 2:19-20** <sup>19</sup> For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. <sup>20</sup> For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God).

Jesus was falsely accused, rebelled against, and rejected; and He took it patiently. God commands us to walk in the steps of our Lord and Savior; and this we must do if we are to be partakers of His glory (**1 Peter 2:21-23** <sup>21</sup> For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: <sup>22</sup> Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: <sup>23</sup> Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously: **2 Timothy 2:11-12** <sup>11</sup> *It is* a faithful saying: For if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*: <sup>12</sup> If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:). God will also take out of our lives everything that will hinder *us* in our service for Him if we will let Him have His unrestricted way with us. But if we persist in our own ways, allowing ourselves to take on a spirit of willful rebellion against Him, we eventually will find that we have shut the door upon our own selves and are no longer His.

Unity is necessary in every enterprise that is undertaken for the honor and glory of God. God is holy. And the Godhead is perfectly united. He has commanded that we should also be holy and be brought into the unity that only He can make possible through the sanctifying Blood of the Lamb of God (**Matthew 5:48** <sup>48</sup> Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. **Leviticus 20:7** <sup>7</sup> Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I *am* the LORD your God. **Hebrews 2:11** <sup>11</sup> For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, **Hebrews 12:14** <sup>14</sup> Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:). Divisions among the people of God are caused by carnality; and they who perpetrate them or allow them to continue do not walk as God would have them walk, but rather walk as men (**1 Corinthians 1:10** <sup>10</sup> Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. **1 Corinthians 3:3** <sup>3</sup> For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? **1 Corinthians 11:17-18** <sup>17</sup> Now in this that I declare *unto you* I praise *you* not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. <sup>18</sup> For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.). The "little foxes" of divisions soon grow into soul-destroying works of the flesh: variance, or discord; sedition, or rebellious speech; heresy, or false doctrine; and strife (**Galatians 5:19-21** <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft,

hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.). A lack of unity will bring a certain degree of failure to a project of any kind that is being done for God's glory, be it spiritual or temporal in nature. We must be united in heart and soul if we are to have success.

### Samuel's Divinely Inspired Strategy

The interest of the godly man, Samuel, was in one purpose, the salvation and spiritual welfare of the people of Israel. He had judged them for a long period of time, serving God and the people faithfully his whole life. He had, at least once up to this time, called the whole nation to prayer and repentance because of their evils and idolatry. This seemed to be the great motive of his life — that Israel might be saved. Many other godly men have had the same vision regarding the sinners of the whole world. In fact, there is a spark of this in the heart of every man or woman who is truly born again. We are all ambassadors for Christ. We are all living epistles for Him. We are all lights in a darkened world.

Therefore, taking full advantage of his situation at this time when the Israelites were entering into a new phase of their national life, Samuel used every influence he had to bring them to God. And the Scriptural account plainly tells us how successful he was. The prayers of a righteous man avail much. The intercession of those who have visualized a world of sinners sinking into hell has meant the salvation of more than one sinner, even though the intercessor did not know for whom he prayed. Samuel was faithful in his ministry to Israel.

Samuel placed himself in a strong position, strategically speaking, by opening his own heart to his people and giving them an opportunity to accuse him of any failure on his part or to tell him of a single time when he had wronged them in any way. They testified that he was innocent.

It was common knowledge that God was not with Israel then, as He had been in the past. The Ark was no longer in the Tabernacle. The Shekinah was no longer present in the Holy of Holies. There was, in all probability, a man still alive and in their number whose name was Ichabod, so named because the glory of God had departed from Israel at the time of his birth. What was the trouble? Why was God no longer there? Was it the fault of their spiritual leadership? Israel's answer to Samuel placed the blame where it justly belonged. Samuel was innocent of any wrong toward them. He had served God faithfully, had never wrongfully demanded a thing from them by virtue of his position, or taken a thing from them un-justly. He had administered righteous judgment and had tried to bring the nation to God. The fault was theirs.

With this strong admission from the Israelites as a foundation upon which he could base his accusations, he began to show them how wonderfully God had provided for them in the past; that He had delivered them from the Egyptians, the Canaanites, the Midianites, the Ammonites, and the Philistines. During this time God had been their King. Samuel then proceeded to show the Israelites their grievous error in rejecting God as their King and asking for a king like those of the nations around them, instead. There was now no way of undoing their foolish deed or reversing their willful choice. The decision had been made; their king had been anointed. They had desired the king and now must suffer the consequences.

But yet there was mercy for them! No wonder the Psalmist wrote often of God's mercy — the mercy that endureth forever!

### QUESTIONS

- 1 Was Saul accepted by all Israel as their king when he was anointed?
- 2 How important is unity in our service for God and worship of Him?
- 3 Meditate upon the following Scripture verses: Amos 3:3; I Corinthians 14:32, 33, 40; Ephesians 4:3, 13.
- 4 What does God do for us when we reconsecrate and offer the sacrifices of praise to Him?
- 5 What was the evil in Israel's request for a king?
- 6 Was Samuel guilty of any evil or neglect of duty before Israel?
- 7 Look up all the Scripture passages you can find on mercy.
- 8 Did Israel repent of their sin?
- 9 What attitude did Samuel finally take toward them, as shown in the lesson text?
- 10 How did God show that He approved of Samuel's charges against Israel?

If they would fear the Lord and serve Him, hearken to His voice, and obey His commandment, the Lord would even yet be with them. Though they had rejected Him as their King, He would still be there to bless them. Such mercy and love in its full perfection can be found only in God. But God's children are commanded to love mercy, and are told that the merciful will be blessed and will obtain mercy.

Samuel called upon God to send a visible sign to substantiate his accusations and entreaties. It was the harvest time, the dry season of the year. The Lord sent rain and thunderings to prove to the people that Samuel had spoken correctly and that they were guilty. The effect upon the people was instantaneous. They called for the man of God to pray for them, in apparently sincere repentance, for Samuel immediately reassured them and encouraged them, and gave them a further warning lest they should repeat their rebellion or rejection of God at a future time.

### The Requirement

In this series of lessons we can see the godly qualities that are necessary if we are to be used of God for His honor and glory. "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8). Saul had these qualities at one time of his life. The godly Samuel possessed them during his whole life. The Israelites enjoyed them many times, but in the greatest part of their history they were far from being what God would have them to be.

In the closing verses of our lesson we read the resume of the requirements and stipulations regarding the worship of God, that Samuel gave the people. Then following his avowal to be faithful to God in their behalf, in praying for them, and in teaching them "the good and the right way" he gave them a threefold encouragement: First, if they would please God and be blessed of Him, they must "fear the LORD, and serve him in truth" with all their hearts. Second, they must "consider how great things" God had done for them and their forefathers, in making available the great blessings of the Everlasting Covenant, which gave to them their eternal hope of salvation as well as the Promised Land and its blessings. Third, they were warned that if they did not follow God they would be consumed, both they and their king. Here in these few lines we have a concise statement that teaches the requirements of the Gospel and our attitude toward its message and call. We must worship the Lord in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24** <sup>24</sup> God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.). We must be faithful in praise for His benefits toward us, both spiritual and temporal in nature (**Galatians 6:14** <sup>14</sup> But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.). And we are admonished that if we neglect the worship of God we will suffer for our carelessness or willful misconduct (**Hebrews 2:1-4** <sup>1</sup> Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. <sup>2</sup> For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; <sup>3</sup> How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; <sup>4</sup> God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?).