

Him to disassociate Himself from them. Samuel will pray for them lest he sin against God.

Conclusion

The only appeal that God has is His person and work. It is still true today. Commit your life to the Lord and consider how much He has done for you. To ignore this is to be consumed (v. 25). Blessed be the Lord. Do you agree?

Notes:

BOOK OF FIRST SAMUEL

"Integrity of Samuel"

1 Samuel 12:1-25

Introduction

1. The end of one era and the beginning of another usually calls forth exciting things. It did for Israel.

2. 1 Samuel 11:15 shows how a whole nation gathered together to reaffirm their desire for a king and to give their support to him. All of this was done under the canopy of a religious concern--with sacrifices, before the Lord, and with Samuel as the appointed leader.

3. What was the big conclave about? It concerned the securing of the new king in his position. How was it done? With Samuel taking the lead, three methods were advanced:--

1. DECLARATION OF SAMUEL'S INTEGRITY. vv. 1-5.

This was a judgment on the past leadership. It was declared acceptable and honourable (v. 4). Note his integrity in:

a. His position. v. 1.

Samuel is often referred to as the last of the judges and the first of the prophets. In this capacity, he "hearkened unto your voice" and "have made" a king over them. In this, he declares, he was not wrong!

b. His person. v. 2.

With one great sweep, Samuel brings up his whole life from childhood (what dedication that was for Hannah and Samuel!) to note that they knew him inside and out. He was open to their gaze. What a servant!

c. His pattern. v. 3.

People of position often take advantage of others. Not so with Samuel. He claims he avoided stealing, defrauding, oppressing, and bribing. To this Saul and God are both witnesses. The people agree.

2. ENUMERATION OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS. vv. 6-12

This is a second method employed by Samuel to secure the new kingdom. It was a look to the past to note the unfailing acts of God in their behalf. With great selectiveness, Samuel lists:--

a. Egyptian deliverance.

This is tremendous. What thrilling words: "It is the Lord . . ." Praise be unto Him for faithfully dealing with Israel after 400 years in Egypt!

b. Judges provision.

Next on the catalogue of God's goodness to Israel is His gracious care of them in the times of the judges. Samuel refers to these as "righteous acts of the Lord." My, what a testimony!

c. Ammonite defeat.

Still warm in their hearts should have been the glorious way in which a spiritual triumph had been scored against this heathen nation. This also was of the Lord their God. Right up to the very moment of their gathering God had made bare His arm for them. Hallelujah!

NOTE: God often uses this idea of a rehearsing of events to show how much He has been in one's experience. Is not this the real import of Romans 8:28. Not a backward look, but out of distress to look back and see Him,

3. EXPECTATION OF ISRAEL'S FUTURE. vv. 12-25

Here is the final method of Samuel's approach at Gilgal. With his own ministry vindicated and God's faithfulness fully established--what is next but to trust the Lord for a fruitful future. This is considered as:--

a. Conditioned.

The blessings of God come on His terms, not those of humanity. If this one principle could be understood by Israel, it would mean so much to their future. What is involved? One big IF which prefaces a list of important actions. What are they? Hear them:--

- 1) Fear the Lord.
- 2) Serve the Lord.
- 3) Obey the Lord.

To this major list of affirmative injunctions, God adds: don't rebel against the Lord and turn not aside from following the Lord. God give us careful understanding that His way is the best!

b. Accredited.

Samuel, like so many of God's servants over the years, sought to confirm God's continued interest in His own by a demonstration from heaven. With the coming of thunder and rain, there was no question but that all Samuel had talked about was divinely ordered. Some weather conditions are directly by divine intervention in the affairs of men!

c. Supported.

The future for Israel is given two precious assurances: the absolute backing of the Lord and the prayers of Samuel. The Name of God is at stake, hence He will not forsake Israel. They are His people and His Word will not allow