1 Samuel Chapter 12

Please **pray before beginning to read and study your bible**. **Repent of any sin or attitude** that would prevent you from hearing the Holy Spirit and ask him to guide your heart and mind as you read. **Read through the entire chapter first** before going back to read and answer questions. **Take notes** when God reveals Himself to you.

Chapter 12

1. In the midst of a huge celebration of Saul's victory and reaffirmation as king, Samuel becomes a major killjoy. What point is Samuel trying to make in verses 3-11? Do you detect any bitterness in his address to the crowd? Who's character is he defending, his own or the LORD's?

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2. In v. 8, Samuel reminds the Israelites of the LORD's great deliverance from Pharaoh through his servants, Moses and Aaron. Recount some of the ways in which God revealed his love and saving power in the account of the exodus from Egypt.

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3. Samuel drives home the point that the LORD has always provided for Israel by giving several other examples found in the book of Judges. Read the accounts if you are unfamiliar with them and summarize.

   Jephthah (Judges 10:6 – 12:7) Ammonites vs. Gilead:

   _____

   _____

   Jerub-Baal, aka Gideon (Judges 6-8) Midianites:

   _____

   _____

   What do the Israelites ask of Gideon in Judges 8:22? How does he respond?

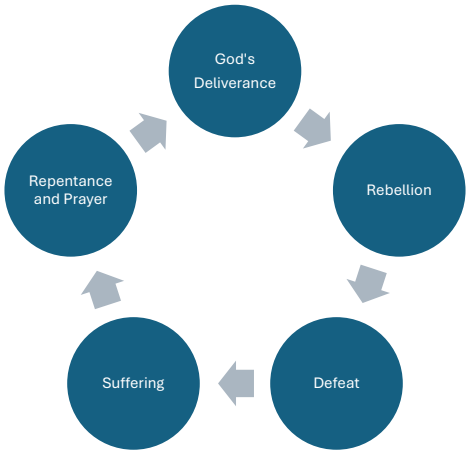
   _____

   Bedan or Barak, depending on your translation (Judges 4) Canaanites:

   _____

   _____

4. Samuel describes a repeating cycle:



   Was Israel's new king an attempt by the people to put an end to the cycle? Is it easier to trust in the flesh than to turn, in our moment of suffering, to the God we have ignored, disobeyed, or resented?

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5. The LORD promises the Israelites His continued presence and blessing on four conditions. What are they?

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   _____

6. Read verse 14 again in the KJV. This is another instance where the KJV gets it right. Who does Samuel say will continue following the LORD *if* the people *themselves* fear, serve, and obey the LORD? _____
   Where does the responsibility for the moral direction of America's governing bodies ultimately lie? _____
7. What is the risk in NOT obeying the voice of the LORD and NOT following His commands (v. 15)?

   _____

8. How does Satan work to neutralize the fear of the LORD in America, in the church, and in your personal life?

   _____

   _____

9. How does the LORD confirm for the people His message through the prophet Samuel? _____
10. What do the Israelites ask of Samuel after seeing another demonstration of His powerful relationship with the LORD and of God's judgement against them? _____

11. What is Samuel guilty of if he stops praying for his people? Why should he intercede for them when they wouldn't listen to the warning against requesting a king? He hears the voice of God. He knows what the future holds; understanding that such wickedness on his neighbors' part would directly impact Samuel and his own family. Does God expect us to pray for people who's bad decisions hurt us? Why should we? See Matthew 5: 43-48.
12. Read Isaiah 40: 30-31 and Galatians 6: 7-10. Despite his advanced age, his already long history of faithful service to God and his disappointment with the spiritual condition of the generation, what does Samuel promise to do in v. 23? When is it appropriate to stop investing the time, resources and talents God has given you to serve others and strengthen His Kingdom?

    _____

    _____

13. According to verses 20-21, what will happen if the people stop following the LORD and serving Him with all of their heart?

    _____

    _____

14. Why does God remain faithful to the Israelites when they hurt His heart, running after idols and vain things that lead to death, when he has given them everything that they need for life? (v. 22)
15. What about the LORD's name compels Him to show mercy to the Israelites? See Exodus 34: 6-7.

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