**1 Samuel 12**

**Samuel’s Farewell Speech**

Samuel said to all Israel, “I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you. **2**Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day. **3**Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the Lord and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these things, I will make it right.”

**4**“You have not cheated or oppressed us,” they replied. “You have not taken anything from anyone’s hand.”

**5**Samuel said to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and also his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.”

“He is witness,” they said.

**6**Then Samuel said to the people, “It is the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of Egypt. **7**Now then, stand here, because I am going to confront you with evidence before the Lord as to all the righteous acts performed by the Lord for you and your ancestors.

**8**“After Jacob entered Egypt, they cried to the Lord for help, and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your ancestors out of Egypt and settled them in this place.

**9**“But they forgot the Lord their God; so he sold them into the hand of Sisera, the commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hands of the Philistines and the king of Moab, who fought against them. **10**They cried out to the Lord and said, ‘We have sinned; we have forsaken the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths. But now deliver us from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve you.’ **11**Then the Lord sent Jerub-Baal,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7472a)] Barak,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7472b)] Jephthah and Samuel,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7472c)] and he delivered you from the hands of your enemies all around you, so that you lived in safety.

**12**“But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’—even though the Lord your God was your king. **13**Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the Lord has set a king over you. **14**If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God—good! **15**But if you do not obey the Lord, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors.

**16**“Now then, stand still and see this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes! **17**Is it not wheat harvest now? I will call on the Lord to send thunder and rain. And you will realize what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the Lord when you asked for a king.”

**18**Then Samuel called on the Lord, and that same day the Lord sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the Lord and of Samuel.

**19**The people all said to Samuel, “Pray to the Lord your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.”

**20**“Do not be afraid,” Samuel replied. “You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. **21**Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. **22**For the sake of his great name the Lord will not reject his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own. **23**As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. **24**But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. **25**Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish.”

**1 Samuel 13:1-14**

**Samuel Rebukes Saul**

Saul was thirty[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+13%3A1-14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7487a)] years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+13%3A1-14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7487b)] two years.

**2**Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Mikmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes.

**3**Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, “Let the Hebrews hear!” **4**So all Israel heard the news: “Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become obnoxious to the Philistines.” And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

**5**The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+13%3A1-14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7491c)] chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven. **6**When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. **7**Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. **8**He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter. **9**So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering. **10**Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

**11**“What have you done?” asked Samuel.

Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, **12**I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

**13**“You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. **14**But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”

**1 Samuel 15**

**The Lord Rejects Saul as King**

Samuel said to Saul, “I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. **2**This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. **3**Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7564a)] all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’”

**4**So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand from Judah. **5**Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine. **6**Then he said to the Kenites, “Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

**7**Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. **8**He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. **9**But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7570b)] and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

**10**Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: **11**“I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night.

**12**Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

**13**When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.”

**14**But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

**15**Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

**16**“Enough!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.”

“Tell me,” Saul replied.

**17**Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. **18**And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’ **19**Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?”

**20**“But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. **21**The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”

**22**But Samuel replied:

“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
    as much as in obeying the Lord?
To obey is better than sacrifice,
    and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
**23**For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
    and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
    he has rejected you as king.”

**24**Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. **25**Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord.”

**26**But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel!”

**27**As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. **28**Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you. **29**He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”

**30**Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord your God.” **31**So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.

**32**Then Samuel said, “Bring me Agag king of the Amalekites.”

Agag came to him in chains.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7593c)] And he thought, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.”

**33**But Samuel said,

“As your sword has made women childless,
    so will your mother be childless among women.”

And Samuel put Agag to death before the Lord at Gilgal.

**34**Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. **35**Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

**1 Samuel 16**

**Samuel Anoints David**

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

**2**But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ **3**Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

**4**Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

**5**Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

**6**When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

**7**But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

**8**Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” **9**Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” **10**Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” **11**So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

**12**So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

**13**So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

**David in Saul’s Service**

**14**Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2016&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7610a)] spirit from the Lord tormented him.

**15**Saul’s attendants said to him, “See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. **16**Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the lyre. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes on you, and you will feel better.”

**17**So Saul said to his attendants, “Find someone who plays well and bring him to me.”

**18**One of the servants answered, “I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him.”

**19**Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.” **20**So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

**21**David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers. **22**Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, “Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.”

**23**Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.