

1-2 Samuel Melodic Line:

Samuel narrates the transition in Israel's history from the period of the Judges to the Davidic Monarchy.

Narrative Summary:

Saul "receives a second chance" with the Spirit rushing upon him at delivering Israel and this time takes action—though with numerous red flags. As Saul's monarchy is renewed, Samuel gives his farewell speech.

Recap:**Why is the Monarchy so important?**

- Following the Bible's storyline
 - **Seed of the Serpent vs Seed of the Woman**
 - Need a **better** Adam: a faithful obedient *king*
 - We get more details as the story progresses: Shem-Abraham-Judah etc

Ch 8 - Israel asks for a King

- This comes on the heels of God's triumph over the Philistines as the Ark of the Covenant makes a victory march through their land
- **QUESTION:** Will they be a good king? Bad?

Ch 9 - Introduced to Saul

- Saul can't find his donkeys

Ch 10 - Saul Anointed King

- Outwardly Impressive, but Inwardly Deficient
 - "Lack of Action" [10:7]
 - He's hiding in the baggage [10:22]
 - Saul's name means "ask for" and the Israel's got what they "asked for" [8:10]
 - Later, we'll see that the right King is the one the Lord has sought out after his own heart [13:14]

CHAPTER 11 Saul's redemption Story??

READ v1-4 then Comment (Get a "running start" from 10:25) **FIRST READ THROUGH** — **SECOND READ THROUGH**

We know from Bill's sermon through ch 9-10 the oppression they were receiving from the Philistines and Saul's "lack of action" — will we see the same here?

v1 — **The people of Jabesh-Gilead (Israel) DON'T seek the Lord. Instead they seek a treaty and a return to slavery**

- **Who are the Ammonites??**
 - cf. Gen 19 and Deut 2
- **Nahash means "serpent"**
 - Will **Saul** be the serpent-crusher??

v2 — Disgrace on Israel and also [ultimately] disgrace on Israel's God!

- Territorial Deities: Remember the story of the Philistines in ch 5-6

v3-4 — Again there is no petition to the Lord **as in the book of Judges**

- Deut 20:1-4 “When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’
- 2 days journey from Jabesh to Gibeah

READ v5-7 FIRST READ THROUGH — SECOND READ THROUGH

But shouldn't there be *good news* coming soon? [8:20 our king may...fight our battles]

v5 — We find Saul not concerned with Kingly duties but going about the family business — Deuteronomy 17:14-20 as “backdrop”

- As in ch 9 seemingly ignorant or doesn't care
 - Problems (enemies) haven't been dealt with — Philistine garrison
 - No one had thought to alert him. –ESV Expository

v6-7 — Again the “Spirit of God” rushes upon Saul (cf. 10:10)

- Saul this time takes action FIRST READ THROUGH
- Threatens the people in his first(?) action as King v7
- Cuts the oxen and sends them throughout Israel (allusion to Judges 19:22ff)
 - Go quick **READ** from Judges 19:22ff the Israelite Sodom
 - Textual connections:
 - “Worthless fellows” 1 Sam 10:27 — Judges 19:22
 - Gibeah — Saul's Hometown! His ancestry!
 - Cutting up the oxen/concubine 1 Sam 11:7 — Judges 19:29
 - “as one man” Judges 20:1 & 1 Sam 11:7
 - Call to Put to death the Worthless fellows 1 Sam 11:12 — Judges 20:13
 - Jabesh-Gilead is the only token that didn't gather against Benjamin in Judges 19-20
- People “dread” not the same word as “Fear” of the Lord
 - Usually used of God's enemies

READ v8-11

v8-11 — The defeat of Nahash and the Ammonites

- No petition to the Lord before the battle
 - Saved in a “worldly fashion”
 - Compare to 1 Samuel 7:10 As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel.

- 1 Samuel 2:10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”
 - Jabesh-Gilead saved
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READ v12-15

v12-15 — Renewal of the Kingdom

- “Worthless fellows”
 - **Mentioned above** to Judges 19-20
 - Gibeah (where Saul’s from) are worthless fellows **Judges 19:22**
 - Benjamin is called to “give them up” but they refuse **Mentioned above**
 - We see hear a call to Samuel v12 to give up those “worthless fellows” [**10:27**]
 - Yet a Benjaminite [Saul] steps in to refuse
 - Right Move?? The Narrator offers NO commentary concerning Saul’s action but with the literary connection to Judges...
- The Lord was their King
 - Though Saul is anointed and recognized by the people his kingship is still to be subordinate to God’s kingship

Chapter 11 comes to a close and we see in Saul—whether in inaction (chapter 10) or action (chapter 11)—that he is NOT the king that’s needed. He may be outwardly impressive, but he is inwardly deficient.

CHAPTER 12 - Samuel will still has some major moments in the Book (Anointing David, etc), **why put his lengthy Farewell Discourse here??**

READ v1-5

- Samuel is begins his farewell addressing the people to see if any reconciliation needs to occur between himself and the people
 - Samuel has ministered as a prophet with integrity **unlike his sons who took bribes**
 - This sets the “tone” for his remaining discourse. He has solid ground to *plead* against the nation’s lack of integrity to their covenant with God
 - Has not “taken”
 - Contrasted to the king they’ve “asked for” will take [**8:11-17**]

READ v6-18 Historical “Word” (Recap) + Act (confirming Word)

- v6-12 Past history indicting the People’s unfaithfulness (forgetting/rejecting the Lord AND asking for a king) **while highlighting God’s faithfulness**
 - cf **10:18-19; 7:12**
 - v10 vs v12
 - Cried out to the Lord (the King) who raised up a judge
 - Cried out to Samuel “Give us a King”

- **TIMELINE 1 Samuel 12:12** OT Narrative: Their focus is on demonstrating how God works out his purpose by directing and shaping human affairs, particularly those of his chosen people, and the incidents these books record are selected with that end in view. –ESV Expository Commentary
- v13 “**And now...**” brings to the present
 - Similar to Deuteronomy 28
 - cf **Deuteronomy 17:18-20**
- v16 “Sign” confirms/establishes Samuel’s words spoken

READ v19-25 — Samuel praying for the people (cf. **7:3-6**)

- People acknowledge their sin; Petition Samuel to Pray for them
- Samuel offers warning and assurance

Ch 12 functions to bookend the narrative **Episode** from ch 7

- Textual Connections:

The **Scenes within** show that

- The nation’s “repentance” in Ch 7 does not last (as it hasn’t in it’s history **12:9-10; 10:18-19**)
 - Reaching a climax in the period of the Judges of a rejection of God’s kingship and his means of providing Judges FOR a king like the other nations to **go out before and fight their battles**
- Saul is not going to be that serpent-crushing King, the promised Seed

APPLICATION:

- 1) What do the bookends focus on?? **TRUST**
 - **Trust God’s WORD**
 - **Trust God’s MEANS**

TRUST in the biblical sense is a...clinging to God and his promises. It’s mind and heart belief together. Chair metaphor

- 2) **COVENANT FAITHFULNESS**

- Biblical pattern is God graciously initiates relationship (covenant) and always **remains FAITHFUL**. Our response in the relationship is to **reflect** God’s faithfulness
- **Action Step:** Read the One Another’s in NT

- 3) **KNOW THE WORD**

- The authors of the Bible expect us to **know** our Bibles
 - Like Bill’s sermons from weeks back and today’s the author is offering commentary BUT intends us to read his work through the lens of the Law (and previous Scripture)

- We talk regularly about the importance of the Word make a clear, measurable action step to know the Word better this week
 - DW \$1k Bible joke
 - **Action Step:** Read Moses and Joshua's **Farewell Addresses**
 - Mark similarities
- 4) We **NEED** a serpent-crushing King!
- Saul is a shadow of Adam
 - David a shadow of **Christ**