

Separation of State and Worship Samuel's Address to Israel

The King and the People Series

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What We Will Learn

- Samuel's speech at Saul's inauguration
- Formally hands over reign of Israel to Saul
- Separation of state and worship
 - Bound by covenant to worship God
 - Direct relationship with God by covenant
 - Not through government
 - Separate relationship with government
- 1 Samuel 12 and related passages

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Invitation to Inauguration

- Saul had been elected king of Israel
- Had led Israel to victory over Ammonites
- Had declared he will be king to all: those that supported him and those that didn't
- Samuel invited Israel to Gilgal for formal inauguration: celebrate and confirm King Saul
- 1 Samuel 11:14–15

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1 Samuel 11 (NKJV)

14 Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there."

15 So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they made sacrifices of peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

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Samuel Hands Over Reign to Saul

- Samuel presented King Saul
- To take over the affairs of Israel
- He had been in charge of Israel all his life
- Heeded their demand and gave them king
- Fair to all, no corruption, extortion, or bribery
- The people agreed
- 1 Samuel 12:1–5

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1 Samuel 12 (NKJV)

1 Now Samuel said to all Israel: "Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you.

2 And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

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1 Samuel 12 (NKJV)

3 Here I am. Witness against me before the Lord and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you.”

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1 Samuel 12 (NKJV)

4 And they said, “You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man’s hand.”

5 Then he said to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.”

And they answered, “He is witness.”

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Samuel Admonishes Israel

- Prior relationship with God
 - God had been God and government to all
 - He sent leaders to manage affairs
 - We worshiped God; he took care of our affairs
- Relationship with God from now
 - You asked and he has given you a king
 - Every person must worship God
- 1 Samuel 12:6–15 [10–15 read in session]

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1 Samuel 12 (NKJV)

10 Then they cried out to the Lord, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.’

11 And the Lord sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety.

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1 Samuel 12 (NKJV)

12 And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us,’ when the Lord your God was your king.

13 “Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired. And take note, the Lord has set a king over you.

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1 Samuel 12 (NKJV)

14 If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord your God.

15 However, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

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Relationship with God

- Every person relates to God directly
- According to covenant
- Not through government
- The king and every individual alike
- Relationship with state different and separate from relationship with God
- 1 Samuel 12:24–25

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1 Samuel 12 (NKJV)

24 Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

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What We Learned

- Samuel defines principle of separation of worship and state
- God has separated state functions and delegated the functions to government
- Every person bound by covenant
 - To worship God
 - Direct relationship with God
 - Not through government
- Government not an intermediary

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