

In Spite of His People's Unbelief and Disobedience, God Has Remained Perfectly Faithful

1 Samuel 12:6-13

- In Samuel's "farewell address," after he emphasizes his own faithfulness, he stresses God's faithfulness, particularly in providing deliverers to rescue his people. This contrasts with Israel's continued unbelief and disobedience, culminating in their desire for a king.
 - The Lord is faithful to provide and deliver. His people must respond to this in repentance, trust, and obedience.
- I. A review of the broader context helps us understand the necessity of Samuel defending God's faithfulness and charging Israel with sin.
- Chp. 7 - God alone provides victory over the Philistines at Mizpah. Repentance for idolatry. Samuel interceding and sacrificing. Ebenezer.
 - Chp. 8 - Israel demands a king. God says they've rejected him. Samuel warns them. God will grant their desire.
 - Chp. 9-10 - The choosing, anointing, and proclamation of Saul as king.
 - Chp. 11 - The Lord works salvation over Nahash through Saul.
 - Read vs. 16-19. This is a "trial" in which God is found to be faithful, and Israel is guilty. Mercy will abound though.
- II. It's also important to understand the progression of thought of the whole chapter to realize the magnitude of the defense of God's faithfulness.
- 1) Vs. 1-5: Samuel has been faithful. They are obligated to recognize it. God has been faithful in giving them Samuel. Samuel can't be indicted. God is also witness. 2) Vs. 6-11: God has historically demonstrated this faithfulness in giving them deliverers, in spite of their lack of trust and disobedience. God can't be indicted. 3) Vs. 12-13: They have done it again in asking for a king, a deliverer. 4) Vs. 14-15: By God's mercy, if Israel will repent, trust God, and they and the king obey him, he will bless them. But he will be against them if they don't. 5) Vs. 16-18: God brings thunder and rain out of season to emphasize Israel's critical sin, and to emphasize the judgment that will accompany unbelief and disobedience. 6) Vs. 19: Israel recognizes the magnitude of its sin in asking for a king. 7) Vs. 20-25: God's mercy, for his glory, is promised, if Israel will trust and obey him.
- III. Vs. 6-11 - The Lord has been faithful throughout Israel's history, particularly in sending deliverers.
- A. Vs. 6 - The One who is Witness to Samuel's verdict is the One Who has always been Israel's Rescuer.
- **Vs. 6** - Samuel says, "The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt."
 - **Fathers** - history. **Appointed** - His regular means. **Egypt** - Magnitude.
- B. Vs. 7 - The Lord's record of faithfulness, blessing, and power is perfect, making Israel's unbelief all the more grievous.
- **Vs. 7** - Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers.
 - **Stand still** - trial. **Plead** - Emotions and intellect convinced. **Righteous deeds** - Every facet of faithfulness from then to now. **For you and your fathers** - His love and always doing good for them.
- C. Vs. 8 - The definitive demonstration of the Lord's faithful deliverance is the rescue from slavery in Egypt.
- **Vs. 8** - When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.
 - **Jacob** - Story. **Oppressed** - Slavery. Suffering. **Fathers cried out, Lord sent** - Compassion. **Sent Moses and Aaron** - His chosen deliverers. **Made them dwell** - Gave them the Promised Land in love.
- D. Vs. 9-11 - The Lord's faithfulness, and Israel's unbelief and disobedience, have persisted throughout their history.

- **Vs. 9** - But they forgot the Lord their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them.
 - **They forgot** - Judges. Patterns. Other times, like Kadesh-Barnea. Unbelief. **Sisera** - Ju. 4. Deborah and Barak. Jael. **Philistines** - At least three times. Samson. 1 Samuel. **King of Moab** - Ju. 3. Ehud and Eglon.
 - **Vs. 10** - And they cried out to the Lord and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.'
 - **Cried out, et. al. (10:10)** - When oppressed after disobedience and unbelief. Temporary. Ju. 10:6 - The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the Lord and did not serve him. **That we may serve you** - A ring of hollowness in crisis.
 - **Vs. 11** - And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety.
 - **Jerubbaal** - Ju. 6-7. Gideon. Midianites. **Barak** - Ju. 4 with Deborah. **Jephthah** - Ju. 11-12. Ammonites. **Samuel** - Moses to Samuel. Comprehensive. **Delivered on every side, and lived in safety** - Complete rescue and care.
 - Samuel's focus is the absolute faithfulness of God throughout Israel's history, even in their unbelief, idolatry, and disobedience. His steadfast love has time after time delivered them, to which they should respond.
- IV. Vs. 12-13 - Israel has asked for a king, in spite of God's faithfulness, and here he is. The people have repeated the cycle of their unbelief and disobedience.
- **Vs. 12** - And when you saw that Nahash the 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. **Vs. 13** - And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you.
 - **Nahash** - Chp. 11 and Saul. Previous threat in chp. 8? The Lord your God was your king. This is enough. **Behold the king** - Look what your unbelief has done. Complexities of simultaneous blessing and judgment.
 - Mercy will be extended for them to believe and obey in the rest of the chapter. But here, the infinite gulf between God's faithfulness and his people's faithlessness is clear. They must be confronted with their sin.
- V. The reality of God's faithfulness and Israel's unbelief and disobedience speaks to us.
- A. The One Who provided deliverers has provided a Deliverer, in spite of and for limitless sin.
 - Ro. 5:6 - While we... Idea of God being put "on trial," and found guiltless. Ro. 5:20 - Where sin increased...
 - B. In the definitive rescue, repentant faith, as sin is understood, is necessary.
 - Ro. 3:28 - We hold that one is justified... 2 Co. 7:10 - For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret...
 - C. The Lord is faithful to us in immeasurable ways, so often when our trust and obedience are small.
 - 2 T. 2:13 - If we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.
 - D. Belief in God's faithfulness, reliability, and sufficiency is ongoing, and leads to obedience.
 - Do we truly believe that God is who he says he is, that he is sufficient, that he satisfies, that his way is best, that he is our King? Ps. 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 - E. This faithfulness, demonstrated in so many ways, is cause for overflowing gratitude and worship.
 - He. 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.