

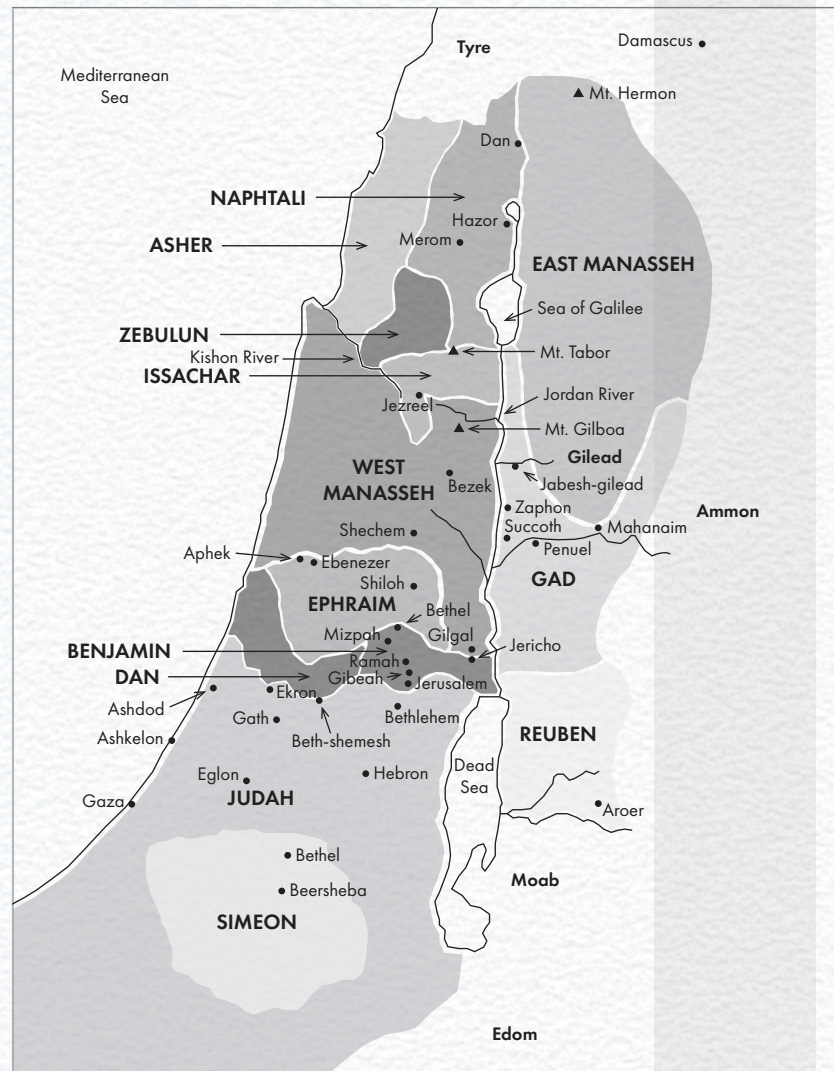
# 1 Samuel 12

## WHEN

- Samuel was born in approximately 1100 B.C.
- Samuel lived until approximately 1012 B.C.
- Israel's first king was appointed in approximately 1050 B.C.

## WHERE

- At the end of 1 Samuel 11, after the battle with the Ammonites, the Israelites went to Gilgal to reaffirm Saul as king.
- Samuel's address to the Israelites in 1 Samuel 12 appears to have been given in the same place, Gilgal.



## CHARACTERS

- **Saul** – God selected Saul to be the first king of Israel. He was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- **Samuel** – A prophet of God. He was Israel's last significant judge.
- **The Israelites** – They sinned against God by asking for a king.



# OUTLINE

- **THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD AND HIS PROPHET SAMUEL (12:1-11):**
  - + Samuel addressed the people while they were gathered to celebrate Saul as king.
  - + He reminded them how he had been a prophet and judge amongst them from his youth.
  - + He asked them if anyone amongst them had an accusation of unrighteousness against him.
  - + All the people confirmed that Samuel had never oppressed them, defrauded them, stolen from them, or taken a bribe.
  - + Samuel had been appointed by God and he had not abused his office.
  - + Samuel had been faithful to the people in his care, as had God.
  - + Samuel reminded the people of God's faithfulness to them.
  - + God saved them from the Egyptian, gave them the land of Canaan, and sent them judges to care for their nation.
  - + The only time the Israelites suffered was when they started ignoring God's commands and worshipping false gods.
  - + Even after extended periods of disobedience, God was always willing to forgive His people and send them judges to save them from their enemies.
- **GOD'S DISPLEASURE WITH ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR A KING (12:12-25):**
  - + Even though God had always been a good king, when the Ammonites threatened Israel (1 Sam 11), the Israelites demanded another king, a human king.
  - + God permitted them to appoint a king, but He wasn't happy with their betrayal and their misplacement of trust.
  - + As a sign of His displeasure, God sent a storm of thunder and rain to Israel, which struck fear in the hearts of the people.
  - + The people acknowledged their sin and asked Samuel to pray for them.
  - + Samuel reassured them that, although God wasn't happy with them, He would not abandon them.
  - + "For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for Himself" (12:22).
  - + If Israel would serve the Lord and keep His commands, God would bless them and their king.
  - + But if they turned away from God, their king would not save them from ruin.

# APPLICATION

- Take a deep introspective look at your own actions before blaming the "system" for your problems.
- The only time the Israelites got into trouble was when they disobeyed God.
- God's system of government (God as king and the judges as His representatives) functioned perfectly.
- Unfortunately, the Israelites weren't ready acknowledge they were the problem, not the system.