

"SAMUEL'S FAREWELL CHALLENGE"

Sam. 12

1) Puts himself on the defense (1-5) "testify against me"

*Samuel formally steps down as a judge ("He walks" . . . I walked").

*Samuel invites any testimony about personal greed, dishonesty or partiality). Note repetition of "take" as a contrast to 8:11-18.

*The nation acquits Samuel of any wrongdoing (God is a witness).

2) Puts the nation on the defense (6-13) "take your stand"

Here Samuel gives a history lesson as Joshua did in 24:2-14.

- He reminds them of God's "righteous acts," emphasizing the divine provision of leaders and deliverance when they cried out.
- He reminds them of constantly forgetting and forsaking God, till they needed help of course.
- He reminds them of their disrespectful demand for a king (8:19)

3) Puts a challenge before the nation (14-25) "take your stand"

*Conditional blessings are given ("if") as often in OT (Deut. 28,30).

*Why call for a storm? (harvest = dry season in early summer)?

*Would this be a well-received farewell speech today?

*Two great promises: 1) The Lord will not give up on His people.
2) Samuel will not give up on the people.

*Fear God or else be swept away--a rough ending to a farewell address! These words of warning go unheeded unfortunately, as the Israelites fail to follow this farewell advice, just as Joshua had likewise predicted (Josh. 24:19-23). Compare to Moses' farewell speech in Dt. 31, Joshua's in Josh. 24, Jesus' in John 13:31-15, Paul's in Acts 20.