



**Old and Gray**  
14<sup>th</sup> in the “God’s King” Series  
1 Samuel 12  
September 4, 2022  
Pastor Mickey Klink

## Introduction

In this passage God reveals the role of king in the biblical story and the blessing of senior adults in the church.

## The Text: 1 Samuel 12

<sup>1</sup>And Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. <sup>2</sup>And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. <sup>3</sup>Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you.” <sup>4</sup>They said, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand.” <sup>5</sup>And 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 said, “He is witness.” <sup>6</sup>And Samuel said to the people, “The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.’ <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. <sup>14</sup>If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. <sup>15</sup>But if you will 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 and your king. <sup>16</sup>Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes. <sup>17</sup>Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking for yourselves a king.” <sup>18</sup>So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel. <sup>19</sup>And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.” <sup>20</sup>And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. <sup>21</sup>And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. <sup>24</sup>Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. <sup>25</sup>But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

- 1) This chapter marks the change in the biblical story from the judges to kings.
- 2) Samuel’s farewell speech directs us to see the church’s need for its senior adults.
  - (a) *We live in a culture that worships all things young.*
  - (b) *Scripture rebukes our culture’s idolatry of youth and presents the “old and gray” as a gift.*
  - (c) *There are several reasons Hope Church needs our senior adults.*
  - (d) *There are several things the younger generations can and should learn from our senior adults.*

## Response

May we pray the Psalmist’s words: Help us, Lord, proclaim your might to the next generation.

## Sunday Text Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: How do churches in general think and act toward its senior adults?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How does vv. 1-2 show us that Samuel, who served as a judge, has now transitioned Israel to receive Saul, who serves as its king?
- 4) Why do you think Samuel mentions his faithful service to Israel before he gives them a final exhortation (vv. 3-5)?
- 5) What is the primary message of Samuel's final exhortation to God's people (vv. 6-25)?
- 6) Why does Samuel reference the errors of God's people of previous generation (vv. 9-10), and how should we be remembering and learning from previous generations of the church?
- 7) What is Samuel intending to communicate when he calls himself "old and gray" in v. 2?
- 8) Read Psalm 71:17-18. What does this text teach us about the important role senior adults have in the church and for the people of God?
- 9) In what ways are senior adults essential to the life and ministry of Hope Church?
- 10) What can and should the younger generations (under 65 years of age) at Hope Church learn from senior adults and do to honor and care for senior adults?

**Further study this week:** Passages that teach us the importance of senior adults: Proverbs 16:31 (Mon); Job 12:12 (Tues); Titus 2:1-3 (Wed); Psalm 71:17-18 (Thurs); Isaiah 46:4 (Fri).