

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1-15-12 PM NOTES
1 SAMUEL
#11 in Series, "The Glory of God in the Old Testament"

I. Samuel: The Last of the Judges (Chapter 1-7)

1 Samuel 1:10 (NKJV) "And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish."

1 Samuel 7:5 (NKJV) "And Samuel said, 'Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you.'"

1 Samuel 8:6 (NKJV) "But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to judge us.' So Samuel prayed to the Lord."

1 Samuel 12:23 (NKJV) "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way."

A. Samuel's Call (Chapter 1-3)

1 Samuel 3:19-21 (HCSB) "¹⁹Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let nothing he said prove false. ²⁰All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the Lord. ²¹The Lord continued to appear in Shiloh, because there He revealed Himself to Samuel by His word."

B. Samuel's Commission (Chapter 4-7)

II. Saul: The First King (Chapter 8-15)

A. The Request for a King (Chapter 8)

Hosea 13:11 (NKJV) "I gave you a king in My anger, and took *him* away in My wrath."

B. The Choosing of a King (Chapter 9-10)

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1. Impatience (Chapter 13)

2. Pride (Chapter 14)

3. Disobedience (Chapter 15)

III. David: The King in Waiting (Chapter 16-31)

Acts 13:21-22 (NKJV) "²¹And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²²And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, '*I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.*'"

A. David the Shepherd (Chapter 16-17)

B. David the Servant (Chapter 18-19)

C. David the Fugitive (Chapter 20-31)

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1 SAMUEL

#11 in Series, “The Glory of God in the Old Testament”

Life is made up of transitions. Just as there are transitions in our personal lives, there are transitions in nations. As we examine the glory of God revealed through the history of His chosen people, the Israelites, we have come to one of those transitions. It is the transition from the time of the Judges to the times of the kings. For the time between the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai and Saul being anointed as king over Israel, Israel was a theocracy (God ruled). Under a theocracy, leadership was periodic and need driven. Under a monarchy (king ruled) leadership was institutional and usually hereditary. In 1 Samuel we see how Israel transitioned from a theocracy with judges into a monarchy with a king. Times of transition can be painful. If you doubt that, just ask parents who have gone through the transition of having a little child to having a teenager! The transition for Israel into a monarchy was not without trouble and trial.

The book of 1 Samuel covers a period of about 115 years from the birth of Samuel to the death of the first king – Saul. The period of the kings goes from about 1095 – 586 BC when the last of Israel was taken captive into Babylon. The period of the kings is detailed for us in 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles. Incidentally, have you ever wondered why there is a 1 & 2 Samuel and Kings and Chronicles? The explanation is really very simple. Each of these 1 & 2 books were just one book in the Hebrew Bible. The books of the Bible were written on scrolls and one scroll held all of Samuel, one scroll held all of Kings, etc. The Hebrew language is much simpler than the Greek. When the Old Testament was translated into Greek so many more words were required that it would not all fit on one scroll. This Greek translation called the Septuagint had to divide the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles into two scrolls each – thus we have 1 & 2 Samuel, etc.

One subject we learn many lessons about in 1 Samuel is leadership. The book is focused on three men – Samuel, Saul, and David. We will see what made Samuel one of the greatest leaders in all the history of Israel. He was a man of God’s Word, a man of prayer and a man of obedience. We see Saul as a man with great human potential, but because he was not a man of God’s Word, a man of prayer or a man of obedience, his life ended in failure, shame, and suicide. David’s **pattern** of life was as a man who loved God and trusted Him. Like Samuel, David was one of the world’s greatest leaders. We will build the outline of the book of 1 Samuel around these three men.

I. Samuel: The Last of the Judges (Chapter 1-7)

Samuel is one of the most important persons in the history of Israel. Not only was he the last of the Judges, he marks the beginning of the office of prophet in Israel. His life was without reproach. Let me share something else for you to look for as we go through this book. Samuel was a man of prayer. I do not recall another major biblical character that is associated with prayer more than Samuel. Let me just give you a few of the examples. Samuel was conceived after much prayer by his Mother. **1 Samuel 1:10 (NKJV)** “And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish.” **1 Samuel 7:5 (NKJV)** “And Samuel said, ‘Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you.’” **1 Samuel 8:6 (NKJV)** “But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’ So Samuel prayed to the Lord.” **1 Samuel 12:23 (NKJV)** “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.” Because Samuel was a man of prayer, he was a man of discernment and power.

A. Samuel’s Call (Chapter 1-3)

[Read 1:1-2] Infertility in that culture was a burden that was almost unbearable for a wife. Infertility was considered the worst kind of curse. Hannah’s husband was sensitive to her hurt. He made a feeble “man like” attempt to comfort her that seemed to fail. In 1:8, he basically says, “I know you don’t have sons, but you have me”. There is no recorded response from Hannah. Hannah’s prayers were so emotional, so intense that the priest, Eli thought she was drunk! Hannah committed to allow the son God would give her to be raised in the place of worship (the word translated “tabernacle” simply meant a

public meeting place – the temple in Jerusalem would not be built for many more years). Samuel would assist and in a sense be mentored by Eli, the Chief Priest. God in His grace gave Hannah a son and she followed through with her promise [Read 1:24].

Perhaps you think that being raised in the place where worship and the giving of sacrifices was carried out would be a great place to live. You would be mistaken if you thought that [read 2:22]. Eli's sons were evil and Eli did nothing to stop them. It was a less than ideal situation to grow up in, but God had His hand on Samuel and he prospered there. I'm sure one of the reasons was the continued prayers of his mother Hannah.

We read about how dark those days were spiritually in 3:1 [read]. The rareness of the Word of the Lord was certainly tied in to the sin of the people. In that dark atmosphere, we see God calling Samuel to Himself and to the prophetic ministry [Read 3:12-13]. With great fear and I am sure grief young Samuel (who was likely around 12) told Eli what God had said and Eli answered in **1 Samuel 3:18b (NKJV)** "It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him." From this point we see Samuel growing and his reputation began to spread as God's prophet. **1 Samuel 3:19-21 (HCSB)** ¹⁹ Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let nothing he said prove false. ²⁰ All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the Lord. ²¹ The Lord continued to appear in Shiloh, because there He revealed Himself to Samuel by His word."

B. Samuel's Commission (Chapter 4-7)

In this section of 1 Samuel we see one of the worst disasters in Israel's history. They fell to the armies of the Philistines, 30,000 Israelites were killed, and the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant. Eli's sons were killed in the battle and when Eli was told about it listen to what happened in **1 Samuel 4:18 (NKJV)** "Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years."

In this battle, the Israelites had treated the Ark that symbolized the presence of God with His people like a good luck charm. The Philistines took it and placed it in the temple of their fish god, Dagon. God will not be mocked. Listen to what happened [Read 1 Samuel 5:2-4]. In addition, the people were ravaged with some kind of tumors that were possibly connected with the Bubonic Plague [Read 6:4 – mice or rats spread the Bubonic Plague]. We don't have time to look at it but the Philistines sent it back to Israel with an offering! If God deals with people this severely who treat a symbol of His presence in a profane way, thing how He deals with people who treat Him in a profane way and ignore His Word. Understanding this cultivates a healthy fear of God.

In chapter 7, we see Samuel calling Israel to repentance and doing the work of a prophet and a Judge. There seems to have been repentance and when there was another battle with the Philistines, God confused the Philistines with some sort of supernatural phenomena involving thunder. The result is in 7:10-11 [Read]. In verse 12 we see a word used in an old hymn that is a favorite of many, but few have a clue as to what the word means. [Read 1 Samuel 7:12]. The second verse of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" says "Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come". "Ebenezer" means stone of helping, and Samuel sets up this stone to remind the people of what God did to deliver them from their enemies, the Philistines.

In the next chapter, the focus begins to shift from Samuel to Saul, but we will still hear often from Samuel and see his Godly influence and leadership in the nation.

II. Saul: The First King (Chapter 8-15)

While Samuel's life was characterized by obedience, Saul's life was characterized by self-reliance and partial obedience (which in reality is disobedience).

A. The Request for a King (Chapter 8)

When Samuel was old, the Elders of Israel came to him [read 8:5]. The Elders gave three reasons for wanting a king, but the last reason was the real reason. First, it was because Samuel was old and a change would be coming soon anyway. Second, Samuel's sons were corrupt and the people didn't want to be

stuck with them. Third (the driving reason), they wanted to be like the other nations. Samuel was very displeased with their request. He prayed [Read 8:6-9]. Sometimes when we plead with God for something that is not His perfect will for us, He will give it to us as a judgment. That is why when I pray all I want is the will of God. I remind myself and tell the Father that if I am asking for something that is harmful or outside God's will, I want Him to answer my prayer with a hearty "NO". It was God's foreordained plan that Israel have a king. In the Mosaic Law, God gave instructions for the king that Israel would one day have (Deuteronomy 17:14-20). What was wrong with this request for a king when God planned for Israel to have a king? The problem is that they wanted the wrong kind of a king. God desired a king whose rule would reflect God's rule over His people. That was not the kind of king that Israel wanted. They wanted one who would fight their battles and they were tired of having God as their King because He brought judgment on them and held them responsible for their sins. They felt like government under an earthly king might relieve them of some of their responsibility. They wanted a king like the nations around them and not a king who would rule like God.

At God's direction, Samuel tells them what it will be like to have a king [Read 8:11-19]. The rest of 1 Samuel can be described by **Hosea 13:11 (NKJV)** "I gave you a king in My anger, and took *him* away in My wrath."

B. The Choosing of a King (Chapter 9-10)

Saul is at the same time one of the most striking characters in Scripture and yet one of the most tragic characters in Scripture. Saul was a self-centered man who was not that excited about being the first king of Israel. Through a series of providential circumstances, God brought Saul to Samuel and Samuel anointed him as king. Actually, Saul went from looking for lost donkeys to being the King of Israel in a day. Saul, from man's point of view had a lot going for him. He had a striking physical appearance [Read 9:2]. Saul had special power given to him [Read 10:6]. He was surrounded by brave men [Read 10:26]. He had all the opportunity in the world, but he messed it all up.

C. The solidifying of the King (Chapter 11-12)

Saul won the loyalty of the people when the Ammonites were threatening and Saul gathered an army and soundly defeated the Ammonites [Read 11:11]. This brought him the total loyalty of the nation. Chapter 12 ends with Saul as the loved and accepted king of a united Israel. The future looked very bright. Looks can be deceiving.

D. The Rejection of Saul (Chapter 13-15)

These three chapters record for us the three sins of Saul that ultimately cost him the kingdom.

1. Impatience (Chapter 13)

Israel was gathered together at Gilgal as Samuel and Saul had agreed to do months before [Read 10:8]. The Philistines also began to assemble. A battle was looming. The longer Saul waited to attack, the stronger the enemy would become. Saul's impatience and lack of trust in God moved him to offer the sacrifice that was only to be done by a priest [Read 13:10-12]. Saul was slipping fast.

2. Pride (Chapter 14)

Saul was impressive to others and he was also impressive to himself. That is what we call pride. Saul's son Jonathan was a godly man and along with his armor bearer he was used of God to bring a decisive victory against the Philistines. Saul was little more than a spectator. In pride he had made a foolish vow about no soldier eating anything until a victory was procured. Jonathan was not aware of his Father's vow and ate some honey he came across. Proudful Saul was ready to kill his own son for breaking a vow he was unaware of. This incident plus several others reveal a king that was filled with sinful pride.

3. Disobedience (Chapter 15)

It seems like Saul was given one more chance to prove himself loyal to God and he failed miserably. The ancient enemies of Israel, the Amalekites, were due ultimate judgment from God for their unrepentant sin. God gave Saul very specific instructions through Samuel [Read 15:3]. Saul disobeyed. He kept the best of the spoils for himself and spared the king of the Amalekites (Agag), probably to humiliate and pridefully show off his victory. When Samuel came, Saul lied about what he had done. He blamed the disobedience on the people and claimed to have kept the best of the livestock only to sacrifice

it to the Lord. Samuel's response to Saul's disobedience is in 1 Samuel 15:22-23 [read]. Learn this: Partial obedience is disobedience and disobedience is rebellion and rebellion takes you out from under the umbrella of God's protection and thus assures the loss of God's pleasure, power and anointing on your life. Just as "witchcraft" or the occult takes from under God's protection and exposes you to the enemy, even so does disobedience and rebellion.

Let's fast forward to Saul's end. After God's rejection of Saul as king, he continued to hold the office for a time but everything fell apart. In chapter 28, Saul consults a witch; in chapter 31 Saul's sons were killed in battle with the Philistines and Saul was mortally wounded. He took the handle of his sword and put it in the ground and fell on the blade, committing suicide. What a sad end to the life of a man with so much potential.

III. David: The King in Waiting (Chapter 16-31)

After the Amalekite fiasco, God gave Samuel instructions concerning a new king [Read 16:1]. David was the youngest of 8 sons born to Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz and Ruth. While Saul was an impressive man, David was an impressed man – impressed with the majesty and glory of God. The pattern of His life is summarized in **Acts 13:21-22 (NKJV)** “²¹ And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, *'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'*” David had some major “mess ups” in his life, but he did some major repenting. While he suffered horrendous earthly consequences for his sin's , he had a passionate love for God and His Word. He truly was a man after God's own heart. God's name and God's glory motivated David in most all things he did. That is why he was so mightily used of God and every other king after David was compared to David. David lived his life in awe of the Lord!

We see David's life in 1 Samuel in three contexts.

A. David the Shepherd (Chapter 16-17)

God told Samuel that he was to anoint one of the sons of Jesse. Samuel made the mistake many of us do in that he looked on the outward appearance to determine “king potential”. He should have known better than that from Saul. No one was more “king looking” than Saul. God in a rebuke to Samuel says in 1 Samuel 16:7 [read]. David's anointing was for a future time that God would determine, but knowing that he was God's anointed governed David's decisions when he became a fugitive running from a jealous Saul. God providentially brought David into Saul's life through his skills as a musician and eventually he became Saul's armor bearer.

In chapter 17 we see the best known event in 1 Samuel – the encounter of David and Goliath. Because of time, I am not going to recount this familiar story. I simply want us to see how most people miss the main point. This is not primarily an account of David's courage – though he was courageous; it is a story about God. David's complete motivation was the name and the glory of God. His primary motivation was not the defeat of God's enemies or the victory of Israel. His primary motive was the vindication of God's name. The primary thing we learn about David is not his courage but his faith. He believed that God would vindicate His own name and display His glory before this giant who had blasphemed Him [read 17:26]. When David faced the giant, he didn't boast in his sling shot skills [read 17:45-47]. God honored David's faith and his zeal for God's glory.

B. David the Servant (Chapter 18-19)

These two chapters recount the extraordinary friendship between David and Saul's son Jonathan. We also see Saul's popularity falling and David's fame growing with the Israelites. That is a formula for conflict when one of the two is filled with pride. Predictably, Saul becomes insanely jealous of David and tries multiple times to kill him. David never fights back. Why? It is because of his faith. He knows that God has chosen him to be the next king and God will (in His perfect timing) deal with Saul.

C. David the Fugitive (Chapter 20-31)

These are sad chapters indeed. In the providence of God, during this time when David is hiding from Saul, separated from his family, and from a human perspective without hope, many of the Psalms were written that have been used in the lives of millions! That's how God works. He sees the big picture. Paul in prison wrote many of the books of the New Testament; Habakkuk in despair wrote one of the greatest songs of praise ever written in Habakkuk 3:17-19; Moses in the desert watching his Father in law's sheep for 40 years was broken and prepared to be one of the greatest leaders of God's people the world has ever seen. We could continue time after time with how God uses adversity to prepare His people for their role in His kingdom and their unique way to glorify God.

In these chapters, David has opportunities to take Saul's life, but he never does. Why? He believes God to establish his kingship and as we will see in 2 Samuel, God does just that. God is capable to do what He has promised without our manipulation.

CONCLUSION

As we saw in Ruth and now in 1 Samuel, God is sovereign and through His providential workings He brings about His eternal plan. We can rebel, do it our way, and be crushed as was Saul, or we can submit to God's plan and God's ways and live by faith trusting that in His providential workings He is in control no matter how out of control things look. (3483)