

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #10 – 1 Samuel

PRAYER:

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, may You reign forever also in my life. Show me how You lead me in the paths of righteousness. Enable me to follow the great men of faith like Samuel and David. Demonstrate how You alone are the Lord of my life. Keep me in Your Word and help me to put it into action. In Christ's name. Amen.

Notes on Samuel:

- Time frame – 1105 B.C. – Birth of Samuel
- 1080 B.C. – Birth of Saul
- 1050 B.C. – Saul made King
- The end of the period of the Judges
- 1040 B.C. – Birth of David
- 1025 B.C. – David anointed King by Samuel
- 1010 B.C. – Saul dies and David begins to rule

These dates show that Samuel would be the transitional leader to close out the period of Judges and bring in the period of the Kings. You notice that David was anointed to be King at 15 years old but would not really rule until he was 30.

Originally, 1 and 2 Samuel were one book. The division came about later by translators.

The major theme of 1 Samuel is the kingship of the Lord. The nation of Israel was always meant to be a theocracy. God was to be the ruler of the people. Even with Saul and David it is made clear that the Lord is the One choosing them to rule as His spiritual leaders. The great sin of Israel was their rejection of the Lord as their King. The result of their rejection would be played out in the next few centuries.

1 Samuel gives a very close look at the main characters, Samuel, Saul & David. You will see them as real people with human foibles. Yet, once again, we see God using them to continue His great plan to rescue mankind from sin through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Questions:

1. Chapter 1 – Many times in the Bible we see the Lord giving a child of destiny to a woman who was thought to be barren. Here Hannah gives birth to Samuel. Who were the other children of destiny given to?
 - Genesis 21 Sarah –
 - Genesis 25 Rebekah –
 - Genesis 30 Rachel –
 - Luke 1 Elizabeth -

2. Chapter 3 – Samuel as a boy is called by God. In Samuel 3:10, Samuel says, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” How does the Lord speak to us today?

3. Chapter 4, 5 & 6 – The episode with Philistines capturing the ark and then sending it back has many lessons. What are two things you learned of God’s power from this story?

4. Chapters 7 & 8 - Samuel was the last of the Judges. What were some of the warnings Samuel gave to the Israelites about having a King?

5. Chapter 13 & 15 – What were the two things Saul did that caused him to lose favor with the Lord?

6. Show the Holy Spirit at work in 1 Samuel in the lives of
 - Samuel -
 - Saul -
 - David –

7. Chapter 17 – List some of the words of David that show he really was the giant man of faith as he faced Goliath.

8. Chapters 18 & 19 – The evil spirits that plagued Saul turned him against David, who should have been his best ally. Why did Saul hate David so much?

9. Chapter 20 – David and Saul’s son, Jonathan were very close friends. What are some of the words and actions that show how close they were?

10. Chapters 21-26 – Saul is relentless in pursuing David to kill him. What does it prove in Chapter 24 and 26 when David has the opportunity to kill Saul, but doesn’t?

11. Similarities between Saul’s death and Jesus’s

Saul

1. Appeared to be the end of hope for Israel.
2. It seemed the Philistines had won the final victory.
3. It helped open the door for David.
4. It showed the foolishness of man.

Jesus

1. Appeared to be the end of hope for all people.
2. It seemed the Devil had won the final victory.
3. It opened the door for all believers.
4. It showed the “foolishness of God.” (1 Cor. 1:25)

Your questions on Samuel ...

Begin reading 2 Samuel.