

The Life and Times of Samuel

Part one - the Bridge of God

1 Samuel 1:1-2:36

Samuel was the bridge of God to span a major change

1. **From Judges** - After the time of Joshua -sent by God to deliver the people from a threat. After the threat had passed. *They then served as leaders of the nation.*

To Kings - A chief ruler, one invested with supreme authority over a nation, tribe or country."

2. **From Silence** - *Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare and visions were quite uncommon 1 Samuel 3:1b*

To Clear Messages - **1 Samuel 3:19-4:1a**

In order to bridge this gap God needed a man of truth - a Prophet who spoke for Him. Samuel was a priest and a prophet.

Priest because he was given to Eli to minister before the Lord.

Prophet - He was called a prophet twice and a seer 6 times

He later established the school of prophets.

I. The Times

A. Corrupt Morals

The people had left the true God and were worshiping Ba'al God of Fertility and Thunder - rituals included sacrifice of living babies in fire and sexual activity that included homosexual behavior

B. Compulsory oppression

Because of their sin God allowed the surrounding nations to defeat Israel and occupy their territory

C. Compromised religion

Eli's sons abused their place of authority and desecrated the sacrifices and lived immoral lives with young women at the Tabernacle. Instead of God - comfort was worshiped

II. His Birth

A. Answer to earnest prayer

Hannah was barren and longed for children

She pleaded with God and vowed to give the child to Him

1 Samuel 1:11 And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me

a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut."

B. Acknowledged as a gift from God

Hannah returned him to the Lord

Weaned - 3-7 years of age -given to Eli (chief priest)

1 Samuel 1:27-28 I asked the LORD to give me this boy, and he has granted my request. Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life." And they worshiped the LORD there.

C. Accepted as a responsibility to fulfill

Hannah came yearly with a new coat

III. His Preparation

A. He belonged to the Lord

His parents had given him to serve the Lord

B. He was educated by a man of God

Learned to read from the early copies of scripture

Learned to worship the Lord

He learned obedience, courage and perseverance

C. His goal was to please the Lord

1 Samuel 2:26 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew taller and grew in favor with the LORD and with the people.

He sought God first and God blessed his life

We face a similar situation today

Corrupt governments controlling the world

Compromised religion

Comfort worshipped

What should we understand from the life of Samuel?

God knows our situation and hears our prayers

Children are a gift of God and a responsibility

We are here as bridges of God today

Our world desperately needs to hear from the Lord

1 Peter 3:15-16

Prepare yourself to speak for the Lord

Acknowledge Him as the Lord of your life

Prepare your testimony and a salvation plan

Seek to grow in faith and please the Lord

God wants you to be a bridge to _____