

## The Life and Times of Samuel

### Part 3 - Samuel the Prophet

1 Samuel 4-9

**What is a prophet?** - We may define a prophet as one appointed by God Himself to be His messenger.

1. **Deuteronomy 18:21-22**, The true Prophet of the Lord *predicts that which does come to pass*. If the Prophet's predictions fail, they are exposed as NOT of God

2. **Jeremiah 28:9**, "The prophet which prophesied of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him." A true Prophet will be **100% accurate**. There is no margin for error.

3. **2 Peter 1:20**, "Knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. "A true Prophet **NEVER gives his private interpretation**. He only shares what the Lord reveals. Scripture defines Scripture, not man.

4. **Matthew 7:15-20**, A true Prophet will show good works, and have identifiable fruits of a Christian. He/she will have **abundant BIBLICAL** fruits!

#### Three Major duties of a Prophet fulfilled in the life of Samuel

##### I. A Prophet calls the people to Return to God

**1 Samuel 7:1-4** (20 years after defeat)

###### A. Return to the Lord

With all your heart - a inward change

###### B. Remove and Renounce all false gods

Especially Baal - god of crops = wealth

Ashtoreth - goddess of love =pleasure

###### C. Reestablish God as Lord of all

Direct your hearts to the Lord

Serve Him alone

**1 Samuel 7:5-12** The people obeyed, gathered at Mispah

Poured out water - emptied their souls before the Lord

Fasted - sought the Lord earnestly

Confessed their sins

Samuel - sacrifice a lamb and prayed

God sent thunder and confusion to the Philistines

To commemorate the victory Samuel set up a memorial

##### II. A Prophet delivers the Reproof of God

###### A. Rejection of the people

**1 Samuel 8:1-9**

###### B. Reproof of God

**1 Samuel 8:10-18**

Warning of the hardships under a king

###### C. Rebellion against God

**1 Samuel 8:19-22**

They chose to be like all the other nations

They chose to follow and trust a man instead of God  
God allowed them to choose

##### III. A Prophet Reveals the plan of God

###### A. Saul was revealed to Samuel

**1 Samuel 9:15-17**

Chosen to deliver Israel from oppression

###### B. Saul anointed as King in private

**1 Samuel 9:27-10:1**

Reminder of who anoints - the Lord

Reminder of ownership - His, the Lord's, inheritance

###### C. Three signs given -confirmation **1 Samuel 10:2-9**

###### D. Saul revealed to the nation

**1 Samuel 10:17-26**

People gathered

Tribe, clan, family - person chosen

**Who is a prophet today - All who fill the requirements of God.**

**Speak the message of God in love**

**Give all the glory to God and not to ourselves**

**Live lives that reveal God in us.**

##### How can we hear the Word of the Lord?

###### 1. Return to the Lord

With all your heart -

Pour out your soul before Him

Seek Him with all your heart

Confess your sin and need of the Lord

###### 2. Remove and Renounce any false Gods

Especially those related to

Seeking after wealth, after pleasure

Seeking to be acceptable to all

###### 3. Reestablish God as the Lord of your life

Direct you heart to Him

Daily in Bible study and prayer

Earnestly with inward and outward actions

Serve Him alone

Chose to serve - not to be served

Chose to serve - where He directs

Chose to serve - as He desires

*Where are you in your walk with the Lord?*