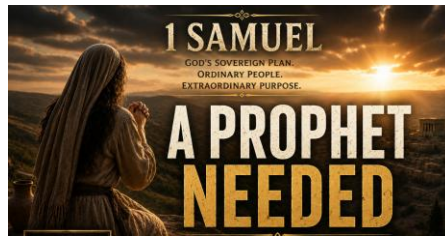


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 1 – The Introduction and Context of the book

Today's Message:

"A Prophet Needed"



INTRODUCTION

Today, we begin a new book – *1st Samuel* – with an overview and introduction. 1st and 2nd Samuel were one book in the Jewish Bible. This is a transitional book. It records the history of Israel from the times of the ***judges*** to the times of the ***prophets*** and ***kings***. Samuel, the man, is the last of the judges and the first of the prophets... he is also a priest. This makes him a type of Jesus Christ! We will witness the move from *Theocratic Government* (God is ruler) to a *Monarchy* (human king). Now, God was their King, and they wanted to be like the world. Samuel's story is incredible. Pray for God to change us as we read and believe this blessed Book and see God's sovereign plan unfold through ordinary people!

FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

Overview of 1st Samuel

Title Means: *His name is El (God)* **Time:** 1171 BC to 1056 BC (115 years; Samuel's birth to Saul's death)

The Numbers: Chapters: 31 | Verses: 810 | Words: 25,061 **Ps 12:6-7; Prov 30:5**

Author: Samuel (1 Samuel 1:1-24:22) + Nathan and Gad (1 Chronicles 29:29)

Theme: Israel desires a king.

Key Chapter: 8 *It is the pivotal chapter explaining Israel's sin against God.*

Warning

God may just give you what you want if you do not want Him and His best.

THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

1. **Historical** Details the transition from the judges to the kings and prophets. It explains the life of Samuel and Saul and introduces us to David – the man after God's own heart.
2. **Doctrinal** Reveals the nature and will of God, the weakness and frailty of man, the unfailing purpose of God, the rewards of obedience, and the agony of disobedience. The faithfulness of the man of God during apostasy, and the forming of a leader.
3. **Devotional** The final times during the Tribulation Period when the Antichrist pursues Israel's witnesses into the wilderness and his ultimate destruction.

OUTLINE STRUCTURE

Chapters 1-7 *Samuel – his birth, and the beginning of his ministry.*

Chapters 4-6 *Saul – his anointing, disobedience, and ultimate destruction.*

(Here we are introduced to the greatest and most famous of Israel's kings – David.)

"And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground." (1 Sam 3:19)
May God grant us by His grace to follow Samuel's example for His glory!

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Judges 21:25; 1 Samuel 1

Every great work of God begins long before anyone recognizes it...

... before there was Samuel the prophet, there was Hannah's burden...

... before there was a national revival, one woman was praying with a sorrowful heart...

... before God brought change to Israel, He began working in one home ...

1. A Nation that needed God's Voice

Application

*Whenever the
word of God is
neglected,
confusion follows.*

- **Judges 21:25; 1 Samuel 3:1; Amos 8:11; 3:7; Deuteronomy 18:18**
- Israel had no spiritual direction, and they were not trusting and obeying God.
- The judges (saviours) had helped, but their complacency led to cycles of sin.
- Eli's sons were corrupt, and the priesthood was compromised by sin.
- The word of the Lord was **PRECIOUS** in those days... there was no open vision!

2. A Woman who needed God's Help

Application

*Sometimes,
God allows an
impossible burden
because He intends
to accomplish an
impossible work.*

- **1 Samuel 1:1-8**
- Hannah's burden was greater than *barrenness*.
- She endured:
 - ✓ **Disappointment** – to defeat of expectation, wish, hope, desire or intention.
 - ✓ **Evil provoking** – to incite to anger or wrath by offensive words or by injury.
 - ✓ **Misunderstanding** – mistake of meaning or motive; not understood accurately.
 - ✓ **Helplessness** – want of strength or ability; unable to find relief by your efforts.
- ... yet she **CONTINUED** to come and worship God.

3. A God who was already Preparing the Answer

Questions

*What need do you
see in our nation?*

*What need do you
see in your family?*

*What is God
preparing?*

*What burden has
God allowed in
your life that He
may be using to
prepare you?*

- **1 Samuel 1:9-20**
- Hannah believed she needed a **SON**.
- Israel needed a **PROPHET**.
- God was answering both!
- Samuel would become:
 - ✓ Last judge (saviour)
 - ✓ First great national prophet after Moses
 - ✓ The spiritual leader of Israel
 - ✓ The anointer of Israel's first two kings (Saul and David)
 - ✓ The man who would call the nation back to God.
- Long before Samuel was born, God already knew exactly what Israel needed.

Key Truth

*Before God sends the answer to a problem,
He prepares His servant...*

Historical Examples

*After 400 years... **Moses** was coming...
Before famine... **Joseph** was being prepared...
Before Haman... **Esther** was being prepared...
Before Ahab... **Elijah** was being prepared...
Before Jesus... **John** was being prepared...
Before Gentiles... **Paul** was being prepared...
God prepares PEOPLE before POSITIONS.*

"... but the LORD had shut up her womb."

*When God's people desperately needed to hear from God (a prophet),
God quietly began His work through one praying woman...*