

JESUS IN ALL | 1 & 2 Samuel – Jesus: The Trusted Prophet

Sunday, March 16, 2025

WELCOME & PRAY

There is so much more value and relevance we can find in the Old Testament than we realize. It is far more than just a collection of historical stories and accounts. Romans 15:4 says, *For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures.* And 2 Timothy 3:16-17 continues to remind us of this truth, *All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* This series, JESUS IN ALL lets us see how intentionally detailed the Savior is woven into the entire Bible. It says in John 5:39, *You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me.*

MAIN TEXT

***2** 1 Samuel 3:19 CSB – *Samuel grew. The Lord was with him, and he fulfilled everything Samuel prophesied.*

INTRODUCTION

In 1 & 2 Samuel the Holy Spirit has given us a graphic, century long look at one of the most significant and pivotal times in the history of the children of Israel. The record of 1 Samuel begins with a barren woman desperately seeking God and who sings a song of praise for His action of grace and blessing because of her supplication. 2 Samuel ends with David the king buying the threshing floor of one of his subjects to build an altar of worship on the future site of the temple. And in between are numerous episodes of failure and victory. We are much like these stories gleaned from these books, we begin as barren and lifeless individuals who call out for God's salvation through Jesus and upon receiving it, we sing the Song of the Lord. Our destiny is to be a temple of God. In between there are ups and downs and how we navigate those moments determine if we are a hero or a coward. As we look at these spellbinding books, we will navigate the path of the maturing prophet that Samuel specifically took and the actions that made way for this anointing, and as we do, we will see Jesus the trusted prophet was the one fulfilling His word through Hannah, Samuel, Saul, and David as He continues to do through us today.

***3** 1. PRAISE IS THE GATEWAY FOR PROPHETIC PROMISES

The Story of Hannah

The story of Hannah is wrought with emotion and tugs at the heart of the reader. Hannah's marriage to Elkanah is filled with love however, she is tormented that she is childless. Elkanah affirms his love for her even though they were childless. He says in 1 Samuel 1:8b, *Am I not better to you than ten sons?* Things seemed even worse by others perception that God had abandoned her. Rather than isolating and feeling sorry for herself, she goes to worship God, and she makes a covenant with Him that if He would give her a son, she would give the child she longed for back to God (1 Samuel 1:11). She received the prophetic promise of God as Eli answered her saying, *Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant the request you've made of him* (1 Samuel 1:17). Hannah later returns with her son Samuel (Shemu'el meaning heard by God) and leaves him with Eli the priest fulfilling her vow to the Lord and she is blessed with 5 more children.

When Hannah presents Samuel to the priest she breaks forth in a song of prophetic praise as she prays these words. (1 Samuel 2:1-10). *My heart rejoices in the Lord; my horn is lifted up by the Lord. My mouth boasts over my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. There is no one holy like the Lord. There is no one besides you! And there is no rock like our God. Do not boast so proudly, or let arrogant words come*

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out of your mouth, for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and actions are weighed by him. The bows of the warriors are broken, but the feeble are clothed with strength. Those who are full hire themselves out for food, but those who are starving hunger no more. The woman who is childless gives birth to seven, but the woman with many sons' pines away. The Lord brings death and gives life; he sends some down to Sheol, and he raises others up.

The Lord brings poverty and gives wealth; he humbles, and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the trash heap. He seats them with noblemen and gives them a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's; he has set the world on them. He guards the steps of his faithful ones, but the wicked perish in darkness, for a person does not prevail by his own strength. Those who oppose the Lord will be shattered; he will thunder in the heavens against them. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give power to his king; he will lift up the horn of his anointed.

***4** Her words celebrate these unalterable truths:

God is powerful and holy (vs. 1-2)

God silences the critics of His people (vs.3)

God reverses circumstances (vs. 4-8)

God provides for His people (vs. 9)

God defeats His adversaries and exalts the anointed King (vs.10)

We hear the echo of this song of prophetic praise as another woman (Mary), who releases her firstborn son (Jesus) for the purpose of the redemption of humanity (Luke 1:46-55), for Jesus IS the anointed King Eternal (Revelation 19:11-16).

***5 2. CONTENDING NOT COMPROMISING CULTIVATES PROPHETIC COURAGE**

The Story of Samuel

Samuel was raised in the ways of the Lord by Eli the priest in Shiloh, which was the central place of worship. This should've has been the most wonderful place, but Eli's sons were wicked. Even though they were priests, they were corrupt, greedy and sensual (1 Samuel 2:1-17,22). The most chilling fact about his time is found in these words written in 1 Samuel 3:1, *The boy Samuel served the Lord in Eli's presence. In those days the word of the Lord was rare, and prophetic visions were not widespread.* In spite of this culture of compromise, Samuel develops into a man of God (1 Samuel 2:21,26).

- As a young boy He learns to recognize and acknowledge the voice of God (1 Samuel 3:4-10)
- He speaks the prophetic word of the Lord with courage and clarity (1 Samuel 3:19)
- This spearheads a revival that overthrows the worship of idols (1 Samuel 7:2-6)
- Samuel's intercession and effort brings about the victories over the Philistines and memorialized it with a stone called Ebenezer meaning the Lord helped us (1 Samuel 7:10-14)

Samuel traveled for most of his life as the judge of Israel speaking the word of the Lord and leading them in worshipping God. He built an altar of worship in his hometown and returned there often. When he got old the people of Israel came to him wanting a king which was unthinkable to him. His own sons were corrupt, and the people desired a leader. The Bible tells us this idea displeased Samuel but rather than debating the people, he prayed. God answered and told Samuel to give the people what they want but it would be hard and harsh and still the people were determined so Samuel courageously obeyed God and satisfied the request of the people. Two men were anointed by Samuel, Saul, the choice of the people and David God's choice. Samuel remained the conscience of the people until he died, encouraging them to follow the Lord always. He lived to see the failure of Saul and David's rise to leadership.

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Samuel lived a life of integrity. He lived a life of courage in the face of various forms of pressure to compromise. Like Samuel, Jesus knows the voice of God and we see Jesus as the trusted prophet who speaks the word of God with boldness and courage. The revival of Jesus continues today in the heart of everyone who responds to His invitation and the word tells us that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the father and is always interceding on our behalf (Romans 8:34). Jesus IS voice that calls in the night, the faithful judge and the trusted prophet.

***6 3. PROPHETIC OBEDIENCE OPENS THE DOOR FOR OVERWHELMING OPPORTUNITY**

The Story of David

Before we dive into David's story, we must understand what happened with Saul. There was no one in Israel who had more potential than Saul. He was from a wealthy family, incredibly good looking, trusted, and lived with a sense of humility (1 Samuel 9:1-3). Through a series of events, Saul is anointed as king of Israel and the Spirit of the Lord comes upon him and begins to prophesy, but after his first year as king things go downhill fast. He becomes impatient and presumptuous which leads to disobedience and ultimately God's rejection (1 Samuel 13:8-14, 15:11). He becomes an angry and explosive man who takes out his rage on those closest to him, Jonathan his son and David his servant (1 Samuel 20:30-33). He ends his life consumed with jealousy and fear. The man who once prophesied in the name of the Lord, was found to consult a witch and eventually commits suicide. What a tragic ending to a life with such promise. We must be careful to not fall into the same trap as Saul and think because the power of God is present, we can live anyway we want. That is a deception that will lead you to a day of reckoning before the Lord. Beginning well is good, finishing well is better.

David is one of the most beloved people in the Bible. David's life is best summed up by the words God spoke over him, he was a man after God's own heart. No matter the situation, David kept his heart tender before God. It was when Samuel anointed David that the Bible records these words, *So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David from that day forward* (1 Samuel 16:13). The rest of 1 Samuel is about David and Saul and their interactions. In 1 Samuel 17:1-58, we find the famous Bible story of David and his defeat of Goliath. Shortly after this is when Saul's rage turns toward David, and he goes and hides in the caves as a fugitive. This is the time where he composed many songs for the soul that were collected and made up the Book of Psalms. It was also during this time that David was able to put to test what he valued most, and it was not the throne of Israel, but it was the approval of God. This is what made him a great king. He trusted God and had patience for His plan. The relationship that God and David have results in the covenant that God's son, the anointed redeemed and the Messiah will come through David's family line. David is a model of what repentance and humility as he faced the failures of adultery and murder and the treason of his son Absalom. David demonstrates that it is not power or position, but he illustrates that subjection to God in all things is what can make the most common a king and servant of God. This royal reality is accomplished through Christ, the Son of David, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and made us kings and priests to His God and Father (Revelation 1:5b-6a).

1 & 2 Samuel ends with an insightful account of David facing another failure that had an impact on the whole nation. As David is offered a way to remove a plague of judgment from the Lord he proves once again that he has learned valuable life lessons from crushing experiences. He builds an altar of worship where he performs an act pledging allegiance to the King of kings. This act has prophetic implications for this is where his son Solomon will build the temple, and it will be filled with the glory and presence of God

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(2Chronicles 7:1). This threshing floor where David offers this sincere offering is a symbolic picture of how like the wheat is ground down to its nutrients, our lives can be crushing and when our flesh is removed we can offer our lives as a living sacrifice to Jesus, which is our reasonable act of worship.

CONCLUSION: *7 Jesus IS Our Trusted Prophet

The Book of 1 & 2 Samuel points us to power of living in obedience to Jesus, the Trusted Prophet. We see through the lives of Hannah, Samuel, Saul, and David that praise makes way for the promise, contending for the promise cultivates courage, and obedience in the process opens the opportunity of the promise. The Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise, and he has been, continues to be and always will be our Trusted Prophet.

PRAY/ ALTAR INVITATION

BENEDICTION