

Lesson #1 Samuel the Prophet

Minister Jermel Williams

I. The fallen state of Israel

A. From the time of Joshua death to the time of the last Judges in Israel there was a gradual decline in the integrity and character of leadership. If you could sum up the theme of that day it would be this scripture. **Judges 21:25**

B. A few examples of what it looked like in that day and time

1. **Gideon- Judges 8:22-27**

2. The Levite man and his concubine **Judges 19:1-30**

3. **1 Samuel 2:12-18**

II. What is a Prophet?

[Easton's Bible Dictionary - Prophet](#)

Prophet

A prophet was a spokesman for God; he spake in God's name and by his authority ([Exodus 7:1](#)). He is the mouth by which God speaks to men ([Jeremiah 1:9](#) ; [Isaiah 51:16](#)), and hence what the prophet says is not of man but of God ([2 Peter 1:20](#) [2 Peter 1:21](#) ; Compare [Hebrews 3:7](#) ; [Acts 4:25](#) ; [28:25](#)). Prophets were the immediate organs of God for the communication of his mind and will to men ([Deuteronomy 18:18](#) [Deuteronomy 18:19](#)). The whole Word of God may in this general sense be spoken of as prophetic, inasmuch as it was written by men who received the revelation they communicated from God, no matter what its nature might be. The foretelling of future events was not a necessary but only an incidental part of the prophetic office. The great task assigned to the prophets whom God raised up among the people was "to correct moral and religious abuses, to proclaim the great moral and religious truths which are connected with the character of God, and which lie at the foundation of his government."

Any one being a spokesman for God to man might thus be called a prophet. Thus Enoch, Abraham, and the patriarchs, as bearers of God's message ([Genesis 20:7](#) ; [Exodus 7:1](#) ; [Psalms 105:15](#)), as also Moses ([Deuteronomy 18:15](#) ; [34:10](#) ; [Hosea 12:13](#)), are ranked among the prophets. The seventy elders of Israel ([Numbers 11:16-29](#)), "when the spirit rested upon them, prophesied;" Asaph and Jeduthun "prophesied with a harp" ([1 Chronicles 25:3](#)). Miriam and Deborah were prophetesses ([Exodus 15:20](#) ; [Judges 4:4](#)). The title thus has a general application to all who have messages from God to men.

But while the prophetic gift was thus exercised from the beginning, the prophetic order as such began with Samuel. Colleges, "schools of the prophets", were instituted for the training of prophets, who were constituted, a distinct order ([1 Samuel 19:18-24](#) ; [2 Kings 1 Samuel 2:3](#) [1 Samuel 2:15](#) ; [4:38](#)), which continued to the close of the Old Testament. Such "schools" were established at Ramah, Bethel, Gilgal, Gibeah, and Jericho. The "sons" or "disciples" of the prophets were young men ([2 Kings 5:22](#) ; [2 Kings 9:1](#) [2 Kings 9:4](#)) who lived together at these different "schools" ([4:38-41](#)). These young men were taught not only the rudiments of secular knowledge, but they were brought up to exercise the office of prophet, "to preach pure morality and the heart-felt worship of Jehovah, and to act along and co-ordinately with the priesthood and monarchy in guiding the state aright and checking all attempts at illegality and tyranny."

In New Testament times the prophetic office was continued. Our Lord is frequently spoken of as a prophet ([Luke 13:33](#) ; [24:19](#)). He was and is the great Prophet of the Church. There was also in the Church a distinct order of prophets ([1 Corinthians 12:28](#) ; [Ephesians 2:20](#) ; [3:5](#)), who made new revelations from God. They differed from the "teacher," whose office it was to impart truths already revealed.

Of the Old Testament prophets there are sixteen, whose prophecies form part of the inspired canon. These are divided into four groups:

The prophets of the northern kingdom (Israel), viz., Hosea, Amos, Joel, Jonah.

The prophets of Judah, viz., Isaiah, Jeremiah, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah.

The prophets of Captivity, viz., Ezekiel and Daniel.

The prophets of the Restoration, viz., Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

A. Samuel the Prophet was born around 1070 B.C. His name means heard of God or God hears. His mother was Hannah and his Father was Elkanah. The book of 1st and 2nd Samuel is named after Samuel and in the Torah it is one book. The author is not known. Samuel and his son's were the last Judge's in Israel ([1 Sam 7:15-17](#)). He was a Priest ([Psalm 99:6](#)). He was also the first person to walk in the office of Prophet ([Acts 3:24](#)) ([Act 13:20](#)). His leadership transitioned Israel's from Judges to being ruled by kings. Samuel is so significant in Jewish literature that he is ranked with Moses ([Jer 15:1](#)) ([Ps 99:6](#))