

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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1 Samuel (Part 1)

(Study Material from Through The Bible: A Complete Old & New Testament Bible Study)

- A. First Samuel takes us from the birth of Samuel to the death of Saul.
- B. God always has a remnant of the faithful – who are righteous and God-fearing. First Samuel **Chapter 1** introduces us to Hannah (*grace*). Hannah is barren, which is considered a *disgrace* and a sign of divine *disfavor*. In desperation, Hannah cries out to the LORD and makes a vow...and keeps it!
- C. **Chapters 2 and 3** show how Samuel's life is different from those around him. In a dark world of corruption, Samuel a like a shining star of righteousness. Notice the contrasts between Samuel and Eli's sons, who were serving as priests, 2:17-18; 2:22, 26; 2:34-35; 3:1, 21 – 4:1.
- D. Samuel: The Faithful Prophet
 - a. **Chapters 4 through 6** offers undeniable proof of God's power and presence in Israel., 4:21-22; 5:6,11; 6:19.
 - b. **Chapter 7:** Israel is mourning and seeking after the Lord. Samuel gives Israel the "recipe" for revival (7:3-4, 6, 12). They are to rid themselves of idols, commit themselves to God, and serve God only.
 - c. **Chapters 8 through 12:** emphasize the serious conflict between God's primary design with Himself as their leader, and the people's desire for a human king.
- E. Saul: The Fallen King
 - a. Impatience
 - i. **Chapter 13:** Saul is supposed to wait seven days for Samuel to come to Gilgal, 13:8-9.
 - ii. **Chapter 14:** Saul placed his army at unnecessary risk by foolishly making them fast in the midst of battle, 14:24, 27, 41, 45.
 - b. Insubordination
 - i. **Chapter 15:** God's command to Saul, 15:3; Saul's disobedience, 15:9; Saul insists that he has obeyed God (15:13, 20). Saul fails to realize that partial obedience is total disobedience. Saul is not exempt from consequences just because he is anointed king (15:26).
 - ii. Saul's weak character becomes readily apparent: (1) he fears the people, 15:24; (2) he seeks the honor of men above the honor of God, 15:12, 30.
 - iii. **Chapter 16:** describes the progressive deterioration of Saul and the rise of David, 16:7, 13, 14.

c. Indignation

- i. **Chapter 17:** This is Saul's response to David's show of courage in his confrontation with Goliath, 17:26, 37, 47.
- ii. **Chapters 18 through 26** show how Saul's condition deteriorates, 18:7-9, 12,15.
- iii. **Chapter 19:** He tries to kill David.
- iv. **Chapter 20:** He even tries to kill Jonathan his own son, for siding with David.
- v. **Chapter 22:** Saul kills all the priest of Nob for giving provisions to David.
- vi. **Chapter 23:** He relentlessly pursues David.
- vii. **Chapter 24 and 26:** David spares Saul's life, which does little to affect Saul's attitude.
- viii. These chapters show the evil that can overtake a person when he sets his face against God. Saul is almost 'possessed' with a jealousy of, and a hatred for, David.

d. Imprudence

- i. **Chapter 28:** Saul seeks a medium, an act that is forbidden in Deuteronomy 18:9-14, because he knows that defeat is certain without the Lord's favor, 28:5-6.
 - ii. The next day, while David is leading his army to victory over the Amalekites (**Chapter 30**), Saul and his sons are meeting their deaths at the hands of the Philistines (**Chapter 31**).
- e. The Bible teaches great truths by contrast, and here we see the contrast between Israel's first king, Saul and Israel's final king, Jesus Christ:
- i. The people craved Saul; *they rejected Christ, Matt 27:20-25.*
 - ii. Saul thought his plans were better than God's; *God's will was Jesus' will, Matt 26:39; 4:34, 6:38.*
 - iii. Saul was impatient; *Jesus waited patiently for his "time to come," John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20.*
 - iv. Saul loves being at the top but ended up a loser; *Christ was willing to be made last and to subject himself to death on the cross – and so He was exalted to be ruler overall, 1 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:5-11.*
- f. First Samuel provides the key to a fruitful life. We must avoid Saul's sin of partial obedience and being ruled by pride and self-will, and we must follow the example of Christ. We must get "self" off the throne and allow Christ to rule in our hearts.

NOTES: