

## **SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS**

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

**TITLE:** Samuel - Words to Live By

**TEXT:** 1 SAMUEL 1-25

### **PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS**

**GODLY LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF GOD AND THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER**

Words to Live By

# **The Life of Samuel**

## **The Miracle birth – 1 Sam 1 - 2**

- Samuel is a miracle child.

The Bible tells of many significant adults, but only a handful of significant pregnancies. Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob & Esau, Perez, Samson, John the Baptist, and Jesus are the others.

We meet Samuel's parents before we meet him. His mother Hannah cannot have children, but God hears her prayers and opens her womb, blessing her with the child Samuel.

- Samuel's name means "name of God."

The translation of Samuel (sometimes spelled "Samual" when spelled in the English alphabet) literally means "name of God," or "God has heard."

- Samuel is from the tribe of Levi.

Not only was Samuel from the tribe of Levi, but he may have had Ephraimite blood, too ([1 Ch 6:33–38](#), [1 Sa 1:1](#)). This qualified him to serve in the temple, but Samuel was much more than a priest (see below).

## **Ministry in the Sanctuary 1 Sam 3**

- He served the Lord, the priests and the Sanctuary
- He received a **vision message to Eli**
- He faithfully gave that message

## **The Ministry of Leadership 1 Sam 4-8**

- Serving as priest – offering one of the greatest of Passovers
  - Hundreds of years after Samuel’s death, a king named Josiah celebrates the Passover. It’s such an affair, the author says it’s the greatest Passover ever—well, ever since Samuel’s day ([2 Ch 35:18](#)).
- Serving as the first prophet
  - Acts 3:24 - 24 “Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. 25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ 26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”
- Serving as the last judge (at Mizpah)
- Served to transition the tribes into a kingdom
- Left notes of the times so that Nathan and Gad could assemble the books of Samuel and Kings
- Elevated by God –
  - Jer. 15:1 - Then the LORD said to me: "Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Send them away from my presence! Let them go!
  - The psalmist who penned Psalm 99 ranks him with Moses and Aaron as one who called upon the Lord’s name
    - (Ps 99:6).Known for his prayers - Psalm 99:6 - Moses and Aaron were among His priests,
  - And Samuel was among those who called upon His name;

## **The Anointer of Saul – Chapter 9**

- Hunting for his donkeys
- Let’s go ask the man of God - “Come, let us go to the seer”; for he who is now called a prophet was formerly called a seer
- A dinner prepared
- Samuel anoints and presents him as king – Chap. 10
- Samuel calls the people to serve the Lord – 10:20-25

## **Messenger of God’s rejection 1 Sam. 13:1-14**

- Saul offers sacrifices at Gilgal
- What have you done?
- Your kingdom will not continue

- “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. **The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart,** and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

## **Saul’s blessing lifted – 15:1-34**

- Your kingship will not continue
- Battle with Agog – destroy it all
- Spares the king. Spares the best of cattle and sheep for sacrifice
- God has rejected you as king
- Cuts Agog into pieces
- Never saw Saul again until after death

## **The Anointer of David – 16:1-13**

- Stop mourning saul
- Go see Jesse
- Elders trembling – I come peaceably
- Sacrifice
- Selection process
- Anointing

## **The Mortality of Samuel – 25**

1 Sam. 25:1 - Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah.

## **The Last Appearance of Samuel – chap 28**

- Philistines again
- God did not answer him
- Seeks a medium
- Calls up Samuel

- Then Samuel said: “So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy?”
- You’re a dead man and your sons

## Lessons from Samuel

### Grow in Favor

#### 1 Samuel 2:26

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people. [\(NIV\)](#)

### No Words fall to Ground

#### 1 Samuel 3:19-21

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. (NIV)

### Fear the Lord and Serve Him in Truth

#### 1 Samuel 10:20-25

“Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> And do not turn aside; for *then you would go* after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they *are* nothing. <sup>22</sup> For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people. <sup>23</sup> Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way. <sup>24</sup> Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. <sup>25</sup> But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

### To Obey is better than Sacrifice

#### 1 Samuel 15:22-23

"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams..." (NIV)

# God looks at the Heart

## 1 Samuel 13:14

The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart,

## 1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (NIV)

Grow in Favor  
Words mean Something  
Fear / Revere the Lord  
Serve means Action  
Obey to the Letter

Is Your Heart For the Lord?