

DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Pastor's Bible Study 2019

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Episode 2: Samuel

I Samuel 1:1- 9:2

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- The Bible portrays Samuel in a variety of roles: priest, prophet, judge, and “seer.” The role with which the greatest number of scholars associate the historical Samuel is that of *judge*. 1 Sam 7:15 declares that “Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.”
- The name “Samuel” means “Heard of God” or “Name of God.”

I. THE STORY OF HANNAH (1:1-2:11, 18-21, 26)

- A. Her miraculous son (1:19-28; 2:11, 18-20, 26): The Lord honors Hannah's request, and she gives birth to Samuel. Hannah dedicates Samuel to the Lord and leaves him at the Tabernacle after he is weaned. She visits Samuel yearly, making a coat for him each year and watching him grow.
- B. Her song (2: 1-11): In this remarkable prayer, Hannah praises the Lord for his holiness, his omniscience, his sovereignty, his compassion, and his justice.

II. THE FAMILY OF ELI (2:12-17, 22-25, 27-36): Eli the priest has two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas.

- A. Their wickedness (2:12-17, 22)
 1. *They are guilty of impiety* (2:12, 17)
 2. *They are guilty of intimidation* (2: 13-16).
 3. *They are guilty of immorality* (2:22).
- B. Their warning (2:23-25, 27-36)
 1. *From the parent* (2:23-25): Eli attempts to correct his rebellious sons, but it is too late.
 2. *From the prophet* (2:27-36): Finally a prophet warns Eli of the consequences of his family's behavior: They will no longer serve as priests, and Eli's two sons will die on the same day.

III. SAMUEL IS CHOSEN TO LEAD (3:1-21): Samuel has already been chosen by God to replace Eli as the spiritual leader of Israel.

- A. Samuel's message from the Lord (3:1-18): While Samuel is still a young boy, the Lord speaks to him about Eli.
 1. *Samuel receives the message* (3:1-1 4)
 - a. Where he is (3:1-9): The Lord calls to Samuel one night as he is sleeping. At first Samuel thinks it is Eli calling him. Eli realizes it is the Lord and tells Samuel to listen.
 - b. What he hears (3: 10-14): The Lord tells Samuel that he will soon severely punish Eli and his two wicked sons.
 2. *Samuel repeats the message* (3:15-18): The next morning Samuel tells Eli everything the Lord said to him.
- B. Samuel's ministry for the Lord (3:19-21): Soon all Israel comes to recognize Samuel as a great prophet of the Lord.

IV. WAR WITH THE PHILISTINES (4:1-22)

- A. The defeats (4:1-11): The Israelites suffer two defeats by the Philistines.
 - 1. *First defeat* (4:1-9)
 - 2. *Second defeat* (4:10-11): The Philistines kill 30,000 Israelites, including Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, and capture the Ark of the Covenant.
- B. The despair (4:12-22)
 - 1. *Of Eli* (4:12-18)
 - a. His anxiety (4:12-16): Eli sits near the gate of Shiloh, fearfully awaiting news of the battle and the Ark.
 - b. His accident (4:17-18): Hearing of Israel's defeat, the death of his sons, and the capture of the Ark, Eli falls from his seat, breaks his neck, and dies!
 - 2. *Of Eli's daughter-in-law* (4:19-22)
 - a. The tragic news (4:19-20): When Phinehas's pregnant wife hears that her husband and father-in-law are dead and the Ark has been captured, she goes into labor and dies in childbirth.
 - b. The tragic name (4:21-22): Just before her death, Phinehas's wife names her infant son *Ichabod*, meaning "No Glory" or "Where is the Glory?" "The Glory has departed!"

V. THE ARK (5:1-12)

- A. In Ashdod (5:1-8)
 - 1. *The temple* (5:1-5): The Lord causes the Philistine idol Dagon to fall down before the Ark. It's head and feet break off on the threshold
 - 2. *The tumors* (5:6-8): The people of Ashdod are afflicted with tumors because of the Ark's presence. So they send the Ark to the city of Gath. (bubonic plague?)
- B. In Gath (5:9): The citizens there also suffer from an outbreak of tumors.
- C. In Ekron (5:10-12). When the people of Gath try to send the Ark to Ekron, tumors and great fear begin to sweep through Ekron.

VI. THE RETURN OF THE ARK (6:1-21)

- A. The treasure (6:1-6): After seven months of trouble over the Ark, the desperate Philistines are advised by their own priests to send the Ark back to Israel with a guilt offering of five gold tumors and five gold rats!
- B. The test (6:7-12): To determine whether their troubles were caused by the Ark or by coincidence, the Philistines devise a test. Two cows that have just given birth to calves are tied to a cart holding the Ark. If the cows don't cross the border, it was chance that caused the tumors. But if they cross into Israel, the Lord caused the plagues. The cows go against instinct and carry the Ark to the Israelite town of Beth-shemesh.
- C. The thanksgiving (6:13-18): The people of Beth-shemesh rejoice at the return of the Ark.
- D. The tragedy (6:19-21): The Lord killed 70 men for looking inside the Ark, so the people of Beth-shemesh ask the people of Kiriath-jearim to come and take it away.

VII. THE REVIVAL BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ARK (7:1-17)

- A. The repentance (7:1-6): After 20 years of spiritual decline, Samuel leads the people to repentance. The Israelites destroy their idols and worship only the Lord. Samuel becomes Israel's judge.
- B. The routine (7:15-17): Samuel travels throughout Israel for many years, serving as judge over the people.

VIII. ISRAEL ASKS SAMUEL FOR A KING (8:1-22)

- A. The logic (8:1-5): The people request a king because Samuel is old, his sons are corrupt, and the surrounding nations have kings.
- B. The lamentation (8:6-9): This request upsets Samuel, but the Lord assures him that the people are rejecting God, not him.

- C. The liabilities (8:10-22): Samuel explains the consequences of allowing a king to rule over them.
1. *The review* (8:10-18): A king will force military service and slave labor upon their sons and daughters and impose heavy taxes on them.
 2. *The refusal* (8: 19-22): In spite of Samuel's warning, the people still demand a king

PROBLEMS (WARNED BY SAMUEL)	Reference	Fulfillment
Drafting young men into the army	8:11-12	<u>14:52</u> -"So whenever Saul saw a young man who was brave and strong, he drafted him into his army."
Having the young men "run before his chariots"	<u>8:11</u>	2 Samuel 15:1-"Absalom bought a chariot and horses, and he hired fifty footmen to run ahead of him."
Making slave laborers	8:12, 17	2 Chronicles 2: 17 -18-Solomon assigned laborers to build the temple.
Taking the best of your fields and vineyards	<u>8:14</u>	1 <u>Kings</u> 21 :5-16-Jezebel stole Naboth's vineyard
Using your property for his personal gain	8:14-16	1 <u>Kings</u> 9:10-14-Solomon gave away 20 cities to Hiram of Tyre.
Demanding a tenth of your harvest and flocks	8:15, 17	1 <u>Kings</u> 12:1-16-Rehoboam was going to demand heavier taxation than Solomon.

IX. KING FOR ISRAEL (9:1-2)

Samuel acquires a king for Israel, a man named Saul. Saul is a tall, handsome man from the tribe of Benjamin.