

May 15th 2005: 1 Samuel : Overview of OT books

The book of 1 Samuel tells the story of the Nation of Israel in its transition phase, as it goes from a position of chaos towards a position of stability. It begins with the Nation under the leadership of the interim judges that God raised up as needed, but then quickly introduces us to the last and most impressive judge of them all, the prophet Samuel.

It is Samuel who is commissioned by God to give Israel the king that the people desired (Saul), and also to anoint for them the king that God has chosen for them (David).

1 Samuel closes with king Saul and his chosen heir dead, and David ready to take over.

FOCUS	Samuel 1:1—7:17	Saul 8:1—31:13
DIVISIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition of leadership #1 Eli to Samuel • Judgeship of Samuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition of leadership #2 Samuel to Saul • Reign of Saul • Transition of leadership #3 Saul to David
TOPICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline of Judges • Eli • Samuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of Kings • Saul • David

Time Frame: About 94 years.

It may well be.....situation in Iraq.....modern day picture of what Israel was like.... during the period of 1 Sam

It too is in a period of transition.....Time of Chaos

1. There are many different tribal Lords

And so slowly a leadership is being formed.....take a lot of time to develop

In Israels the tribes were often against each other....

2. Iraq is surrounded by other Nations.....are a threat

It is not hard to imagine a Nation like Iran

Israel too was surrounded by powerful enemies.....Philistines

Who were itching to

The huge difference however

Israel was God's people.....and despite intertribal rivalry.....Had a unity under God

And God had a purpose for them.....**and God had covenanted....**to make that happen

This is what set apart Israel.....from any other Nation

They didn't have the US army....UN forces to come in and sort things out

That they survived as a Nation.....and successfully made the transition

From 12 tribal leaders....to one king under God.....an amazing miracle

When you read....see how that happened

And you will note.....how in bringing about such a Transition

God used normal people like you and me

- **He used a woman called Hannah.....**

She was the second wife.....

And 1:5 tells us....that the Lord had closed her womb

She had no children.....and suffered because of that

But having no children.....was part of God's big plan

It is a fact of the believers life.....that God will at times allow us to suffer

So that His perfect plan will come to pass

Hannah suffered much.....and that suffering produced (v10)...a bitterness of soul

But it also sent her to the Lord in prayer.....and out of.....Samuel was born

And after Samuel....other children.....*As Ps 30:5 weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning*

Hannah kept trusting and praying despite.....and God blessed the Nation...thro her

- **God used a boy called Samuel**

Samuel's upbringing was unique.....Given over to the Lord as a young child

He was raised to be conscious of Almighty God

Yet that was not enough

Samuel had to experience God in a personal way....and in 3 u will read.....

From that time on.....key things.....He was in tune with God....and heard...

He judged Israel for many years.....thro many a crises including the loss and.....Ark

When he was old.....he appointed his sons.....Not what God had planned
And then he heard God telling him to give the people a king

Samuel listened to God→

- When he first anointed Saul
- When he had to tell Saul that God would take the kingdom
- When he went to choose a son of Jesse

In this listening..... we find the greatest contrast between Samuel.....
and another man God used

- **Saul**

Saul was the first king

And there is no doubt that he was used by God::::He was king for 42 difficult years
But Saulwho started so well.....So humbly....so willing to trust

Chose to go His own way.....rather than to listen and obey God
Consequently his effectiveness for God.....became less and less

Saul became preoccupied with Saul

Paranoid about David.....and fell into the trap of thinkinghe could serve
Without obeying His Word.....Without listening to His voice

God needs people today who will hear that still small voice.....

And have the courage to obey it

David....the other main character.....made a practice of listening....obeying

You will read in 1 Samuel.....famous story of David and Goliath
He knew God wanted him to fight this giant.....and therefore he was ready

The main reason King Saul.....unusual decision to send a young.....
Was because he saw that total belief.....THAT God would defeat Goliath thro

The final chapters of 1 Sam are mainly about.....suffering David went thro
Because Saul was out to kill him

Then twice we read of the temptation David faced.....to take matters into own hand
To kill Saul.....to hurry along God's plan

But he refused to listen to the wisdom of man.....Instead he listened...obeyed ..God
And when the time was right.....God acted on his behalf

The major challenge of 1 Samuel is about listening to God.....Trusting Him

God needs His people today.....to truly listen.....that voice of the Spirit

This month is Missionary month.....and the Missionaries...support
Are there because they heard.....and obeyed

It is not easy.....but God never promises an easy way....just....be with us
And like Hannah...David.....they may have to struggle for years...before they see
But they have a peace with God.....knowing that this is what He wants of them
They wouldn't live without

Are you listening to God.....Spending quite times with Him..in His Word
Wanting above all else to do what He has set you on earth

(Esther.....For most of us.....God's purpose is not just one major act
it's a lot of different things.....sprinkled throughout our life

that's why we need...constantly asking Him
what do you want of me today
How can I use this time.....easy.....or hard....Full of joy...or full of suffering
To fulfil that part of your plan

For when we ask that question.....God sends along..in his time.....His answer

