

#15 Samuel | May 20, 2018

Samuel: from *theocracy* to *monarchy*

- The book of Judges ends with the Judge Samson, who helped save the Israelites from the Philistines, but was unsuccessful due to his own sin.
- The book of 1 Samuel opens with Eli as Priest and Judge, who judged Israel for 40 years (1 Sam. 4:18)
- An amazing amount of detail is given on the birth of Samuel, found in 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11.
  - He was a Levite – 1 Chronicles 6:16-28.
    - Epharaites (1 Sam. 1:1) should not be mistaken as “descendant of Ephraim.”
    - “Ephraimite” is an interpretation used in virtually all non KJV translations.
  - His birth was a direct answer to prayer for a **man child**, using the same Hebrew word as is found in the promise of a Redeemer in Genesis 3:15.
  - He was dedicated to the Lord for lifelong service prior to his birth. Being a Levite, he would have normally served for 30 years, from age 20 to age 50.
  - Like Samson, was declared a *Nazarite* before his birth.
  - Samuel was taken to the tabernacle in Shiloh and raised there, serving in the Tabernacle and with Eli from the time he was weaned until he was an adult.
- Samuel’s childhood call is one of the most famous stories of the era of the Judges - 1 Samuel 3:1-20.
- The death of both of Eli’s sons and then Eli himself propelled Samuel into the place of leadership in the Jewish nation – 1 Samuel 4-6.
  - The sons, Phinehas and Hophni, were “sons of Belial” – 1 Samuel 4:12.
  - The foolishly took the Ark of the Covenant into battle, as a “good luck charm.”
  - The Lord allowed the Philistines to slaughter 30,000 Israelite soldiers, including Eli’s sons. They also captured the Ark.
  - When Eli heard of the loss, he fell over backward and died at the age of 98.

- Phinhas’s widow gave birth to a son, whom she named Ichabod, “The glory hath departed.”
- The Philistines kept the Ark for seven months, finally sending it back due to the curses that were coming upon them.
- Samuel served as Judge, leading the people back to faithfulness in service – 1 Samuel 7.
  - The observance of Passover during this time was highlighted during the days of Josiah – 2 Chronicles 35:18.
- In his later days, Samuel, like Eli before him, set up his wicked sons to judge Israel. It was this action that led to the establishment of the monarchy. 1 Samuel 8:1-6

Things You May Not Know

- The books of 1&2 Samuel were originally one complete scroll. The Hebrew Bible still contains just “Samuel.” The same is true with 1&2 Kings. The Septuagint put all four together, called, “The Book of the Kingdom.” The Latin version by Jerome contained four books called 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Kings and 4<sup>th</sup> Kings. A 1518 translation was the first to use 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings.
- Samuel is the first Prophet (Enoch and Moses, though prophetic, have never been counted among the Prophets) – see Acts 3:24.
- There are only three lifelong Nazarites mentioned in the Bible: Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist.
- The Song of Hannah (1 Sam. 2:1-11) is the seventh of 10 songs in the Hebrew Scriptures. Much of the wording is echoed in Mary’s *Magnificat* in Luke 1:46-55.
- Samuel was considered by Eli to be a child on loan to the Lord – 1 Samuel 2:20.
- The term “Ebenezer” comes from Samuel’s *stone of remembrance* found in 1 Samuel 7:12.