

Life-Study of 1 and 2 Samuel Summaries – Messages 1 - 10

MESSAGES 1–7 – The History Concerning Samuel–A Man According to God

Samuel's ministry brought in the **prophethood for God's oracle** and the **kingship for God's administration**. The content of 1 and 2 Samuel is the history of Samuel, Saul, and David, which continues the history of the judges and which is a crucial part of the central line of Israel's history. The **central thought** of 1 and 2 Samuel is that the **fulfillment of God's economy needs man's cooperation**. To cooperate with God means to be bound together with God.

Samuel's origin, birth, and youth

Samuel came out of God's economy. God had ordained that Aaron's descendants would be the priests for the carrying out of His economy, but that **priesthood become stale and waning**. **God's heart's desire was to gain someone to replace that priesthood**. In the midst of the chaos of the degraded Israel, Elkanah and Hannah remained in the line of life ordained by God for His eternal purpose. This couple was in cooperation with the move of God on earth for the accomplishment of God's economy. They were moved by the moving One who was moving secretly behind the scene.

In a very particular way, **the origin of Samuel was the moving God with His answer to the prayer of Samuel's mother**. God's move with His answer to Hannah's prayer was to produce a Nazarite who was absolute for the fulfilling of His desire. In his youth, Samuel was offered to Jehovah to be a Nazarite. Samuel ministered to Jehovah before Eli the priest; Eli taught Samuel the way to minister to God. **Samuel became a priest through the Nazarite vow, not in the ordained way but in the way of a voluntary vow**. Samuel grew before Jehovah in favor both with Jehovah and with men. Samuel was in a position that both God and men were for Him. We may experience this in the church life today.

Samuel's growing up under the custody of Eli was God's wisdom. Because God intended to replace the waning priesthood with Samuel, it was necessary for him to learn certain lessons while he was under Eli's custody. While Samuel was learning he observed the **deterioration of the degraded Aaronic priesthood**. This became a **constant warning** to him throughout his priestly service. Samuel came to realize that God's severe judgment was on the house of Eli. God's severe judgment was executed through the Philistines.

Samuel's Ministry

Samuel ministered in **five statuses**. First, as a **Nazarite** consecrated to God absolutely for the fulfillment of His economy, a volunteer to **replace any official and formal serving ones of God**. Second, Samuel ministered as a **priest** to **replace** and **terminate**, in a sense, the **stale Aaronic priesthood**. In this replacing priesthood, Samuel anointed Saul and David to be kings. Third, Samuel ministered as a **prophet**; as a prophet he assisted the king. Samuel was established by God to **speak the word of God** to **replace the teaching** of the word of God by the **old priesthood**. Fourth, Samuel ministered as a **judge**. A judge carried out **God's governmental administration**. Samuel stood on earth to be the one representing God and acting for Him. Finally, Samuel ministered as a **man of prayer**.

At the end of his ministry, Samuel made his **sons judges over Israel**. However, they did not follow in his ways, hence, **Samuel should be considered the last judge and Samuel terminated the judgeship**. The unjust ways of Samuel's sons gave the people of Israel cause to ask him to appoint a king to judge them like all the nations. By insisting on having a king, the elect of God turned from God to a man; **as long as we have replacement for God, that is evil**.

MESSAGES 8–10 – The History Concerning Saul

Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin born to Kish, a man of wealth. He was a **handsome** young man indicating that he was **attractive to people**. **Saul became a king through God's anointing**. God's purpose in anointing Saul to be king was to use him as a "**whip**" to discipline Israel. God's anointing of Saul happened by Saul's meeting Samuel under **God's arrangement and God's call through Samuel**. Saul was made king by Samuel's anointing him with oil and was confirmed by the Spirit of Jehovah rushing upon him mightily causing him to prophesy. Samuel also told Saul that after the Spirit of God rushed upon him, he would "be turned into another man".

At the time of his inauguration, Saul put on a **mask of humility**, but near the end of his life, he was exposed as actually being an **evil person before God**. After Saul was anointed king, the Ammonites came to threaten and reproach the children of Israel. Saul conquered the Ammonites not for the kingdom of God but for his monarchy. This victory uplifted Saul in the eyes of the people of Israel.

After Saul conquered the Ammonites and forgave his despisers, Samuel spoke to Israel about renewing the kingdom. **Samuel charged the people of Israel not to turn away from following Jehovah but to serve Him with all their heart**.

Saul prepared for war against the Philistines assisted by his son Jonathan. In their preparation for war against Israel, the Philistines assembled 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen and "people like the sand that is on the seashore in multitude". In this war, **Saul's intention to act on his own for the building up of his monarchy was exposed**. Saul's disobedience was exposed in the matter of his sinful offering. Saul's excuse for his disobedience was that the people were scattered from him and that the Philistines assembled themselves for fighting. This disobedience resulted in his **losing his kingship**.

In Israel's conquest of the Philistines, **God was their unique weapon**. Jonathan did not let his father and the people know that he was going to attack the Philistines. **Jonathan trusted in Jehovah for his victory**, believing that there was no constraint on Jehovah to save by many or by few. Jehovah delivered the Philistines into the hand of Israel.

(Life-Study of 1 and 2 Samuel, 1–10)