

## **BIB 211 History of Israel I**

### **Lesson 6** Life of Samuel (I Samuel 1-7)

Intro. Samuel successfully navigated the nation of Israel from a period of spiritual depression under the judges (himself being the last judge and the first official prophet) to preparing the nation for a king. The judges had failed (Samson), the priests were corrupt (Eli), and the army was ineffective. "His influence lay not in military exploits, nor in diplomatic skill, nor in political shrewdness, but in his wonderful integrity, and his splendid loyalty... At the end of his days he could challenge the people to say if any of his dealings with them had been corrupt, and they affirmed that his claim was just and true." Scroggie  
His three crowning attributes

1. The transition from judge to prophet - Moses and Paul had successfully transitioned
2. Founding the school of the prophets - how important today to commit to faithful men
3. Man of prayer - how significant in our day to overlook this. Key to Moses, Paul, and Samuel's success. I Sam. 12:23

#### 1. His childhood (1-3)

##### A. His birth (1)

2. Hannah's barrenness - (1-8) how they viewed it as a curse, provoked (7)
3. Hannah's vow (9-18) Nazarite - comparison to John the Baptist
4. Hannah's dedication of the child (19-28)

Note: seriousness of "baby dedication"

Note: maybe the Lord caused her to be barren was to make her willing to offer the child

1. Hannah's song (2:1-10) almost identical to Mary's

Note: "Give me a generation of Christian mothers, and I will undertake to change the face of society in twelve months." Lord Shaftesbury

"When should we begin the training of a child? With his grandmother" Oliver Wendell Holmes

##### B. His introduction to the priesthood (2)

- b. Eli's wicked sons - esteemed children above God 29,30
- c. Man of God rebukes Eli and prophesies his family destruction 27-36
- d. Samuel's predicted priesthood 35

##### C. His calling and office (3)

- e. Hears the voice of the Lord - not saved verse 7 (1-10)
- f. Receives message of doom for Eli (11-18) Note: the blessing of being a prophet to deliver good and bad news
- g. His relationship with the Lord - compared to Christ in Luke 2

#### 2. His ministry (4-7)

##### A. tragic events (4)- Note: tragic events early in ministry are part of preparation

3. military defeat
4. loss of ark

Note: the danger of pretentiously using God's presence

5. fulfillment of Eli and sons death in same day
6. Ichabod - the glory is departed

Note: these conditions reveal the declension of the time that Samuel ministered in

B. Sovereignty of God (5-7)

7. curse of pagans possessing the ark (5) Dagon falls and bows

Note: custom for armies to attribute their victories to the superiority of their God; this ensured that didn't happen.

8. Return of the ark (6) - death of 50,000 for looking into the ark
9. Samuel's intervention and intercession (7)

### Conclusion

We have already addressed the downward spiral of the time of the Judges, God is looking for a man to stand in the gap and make up the hedge. Ezekiel 13:5 22:23-31