

## Highlights From The Life and Ministry of Samuel – 1 Samuel 1-8

- *His Life Began With A Faithful Family: They Worshiped At The Temple.*
  - “And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh.” – 1 Samuel 1:3
  - They went faithfully, despite the hypocrisy of the priests
  - Tells us the value of a devout family, committed to God's house and people
- *His Life Began On The Basis Of A Prayer.*
  - “And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.” – 1 Samuel 1:10
  - A prayer marked by burden
  - A prayer marked by tears
  - A prayer marked by consecration: “I will give [my son] unto the Lord all the days of his life.”
  - Samuel means “Heard of God.” – God *answers* prayers of burden, effort, and worship
- *Samuel's Early Life*
  - Was brought up in the house of the Lord in Shiloh
  - Was brought up in the Lord's presence Who:
    - Set the world upon the pillars of the earth
    - “Will keep the feet of His saints”
  - “The child ministered unto the Lord...” (2:11)
  - “Was surrounded by false religiousness (Eli's sons)”
- *Samuel's Call*
  - Was during his regular ministry (3:1) – tells us the value of faithfulness in the little things
  - “Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the Word of the Lord yet revealed unto Him.”
  - God called three times – distinct confirmation
  - “Speak, Lord, thy servant heareth.”
  - It was clear Eli would fade from service and be replaced by Samuel
- *Samuel's Preparation for Ministry – 3:19-21*
  - “Samuel grew”
    - Maturity
    - Life progress and God's leading of circumstances
  - “The Lord was with Him”
    - One of the single most important elements in public service
    - Shows God's Divine favor resting upon Samuel's ministry
  - “And did not let any of his words fall to the ground”
    - Vital as a man of words
    - Vital as a prophet
  - “[Israel] knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of Yahweh”
    - The value of a good reputation
    - Confirmation from the God of his ministry
    - The value of external confirmation from God's people of a calling to public service

- “The Lord revealed Himself... by the Word”
  - The center of ministry: knowledge of God
  - Communion
  - Continuing progress in spiritual things
- *Israel's Sad Spiritual Condition – Chapters 4-7*
  - Chapter 4 – Philistines overcame Israel in battle
  - Chapters 5-6 – The ark supplanted from its place
  - Chapter 7a – Ark 20 years in Kearjath-jearim: Israel weeps
- *Israel and Revival – Chapter 7*
  - v. 3-4 – Recommittal and destruction of idolatry
  - v. 5-6 – Collective prayer and repentance
  - v. 7-8 – Continual prayer for victory
  - v. 9-10 – Regaining the victory in light of victory
  - v. 11 – Thorough smiting of the enemy
  - v. 12 – The true source of restoration: EBENEZER
  - v. 13-17 – The duration of Samuel's ministry, associated with spiritual victory for Israel all the time
- *Chapter 8 – Decline: Samuel's Sons / Want for a King*