

Eastern Bible Conference
Young Peoples Meeting
2010

SAMUEL – “ASKED OF GOD”

1 SAMUEL - CHAPTER 1

Why study the lives of Old Testament saints such as Hannah and Samuel? Among other reasons, they are part of the “So great a cloud of witnesses” that Hebrews 11 speaks of. We can study them to learn the history of this time but a far nobler reason is to follow the patterns developed in their lives and apply them to our own lives today. With this in mind, we take up this week at EBC the life in particular of Samuel although we want to meet his parents first.

How nice it is to be introduced to the godly mother and father of Samuel before taking up the details of his life. We know that the days of Samuel were dark days but how good to see that there were godly parents carrying on for Jehovah even in days of apostasy when darkness and unfaithfulness seemed to prevail. We want to take up Hannah in this first reading.

1. What is the first thing we learn about Hannah and her relationship with Peninnah in verse 8? Discuss.
2. Discuss Hannah’s resources as seen in verses 10, 12 and 15.
3. Why do you think Hannah wanted a man child?
4. Let’s look at Eli and the conclusions he jumped to. Three things marked this process with Eli. He _____ in verse 12, he _____ in verse 13 and he _____ in verse 14. Discuss.
5. What do we learn about Hannah from her response to Eli in verse 15?
6. Discuss the answer of Eli to Hannah and the change in her behavior as seen in verses 18 and 19. Do you think she looked beyond Eli?
7. Discuss the scene that is developed in verses 26, 27 & 28.

1 SAMUEL 2 – VS 1 – 11

1. Are we surprised at what Hannah is again doing? What do we learn from this?

2. We might have expected Hannah to be rejoicing over Samuel but what do we find? Discuss
3. Discuss verse 3 and present applications for our lives.
4. Hannah seems to have risen completely above the circumstances of the day and to be taken up with the greatness of the God that she belongs to. Discuss

1 SAMUEL 3 - THE CALL OF SAMUEL

As we begin this portion, we may make many references to Eli, his sons and the circumstances of the day. Having this in mind, we want to remember that our primary exercise this week is not these men and their failure but Samuel and the way God used him is a day of darkness and confusion. In short, we are occupied with the brilliance of the diamond and the various facets of it and not the blackness of the background that it is surrounded by.

1. Discuss Chapter 3 – vs 1 **“There was no open vision”**. What did this mean and what was the reason for it?
2. What verses in Chapter 3 give us an indication as to the **spiritual conditions** that prevailed at this time?
3. Discuss Samuel’s responses to the Lord.

THE LIFE OF SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 2 VS 18, 21 and 26

1 SAMUEL 3 VS 1, 19

1. What is the common theme in each of these verses as we see Samuel developing? Discuss
 - “Samuel _____ before the Lord” Vs 18
 - “Samuel _____ before the Lord” Vs 21
 - “Samuel _____ on and was in favor” Vs 26
 - “Samuel _____ unto the Lord” Vs 1
 - “Samuel _____ and the Lord was with him” Vs 19
2. What is the thought behind the **“little coat”** brought to him by his mother each year?
3. Discuss the grand principle established in verse 30 of chapter 2.
4. How do we see the development of this principle in the life of Samuel as evidenced in Chapter 3 – vs 29 & 30? How did “all Israel” know that it was established that Samuel was to be a prophet of the Lord?
5. Samuel was the first of the **successional prophets**? Discuss

1 SAMUEL 4 - FAILURE IN ISRAEL

Many are the lessons we can learn from this Chapter. “The things that were written aforetime were written for our learning” and the failure we see in Israel is often the same failure manifested in the lives of many believers today.

1. We immediately see that Israel sought no _____ from the Lord.
2. ***Who*** does it appear started this confrontation?
3. Having been soundly defeated, what does Israel do next?
4. Where do they get the instructions for the plan they come up with in verse 3?
5. It would appear that the ark was little more than a _____ . Discuss.
6. It would appear that all were encouraged and that great things were about to happen in verse 5. Discuss
7. What is the difference between ***the thoughts of Israel*** about the ark and ***the thoughts of the Philistines*** about the ark? Discuss.
8. Discuss the difference in the results in plan 1 and plan 2 as seen in verse 10.

1 SAMUEL 7 - RETURN

Many terrible things happened between Chapters 5 and 7 of our book and we lose sight of Samuel for almost 20 years but we need not suppose that he was not serving the Lord. We come back to him in Chapter 7 and learn some details about recovery and what God’s ***requirements*** are for Israel.

1. “The time was long and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord”.
What is the difference between ***lamenting*** and ***repenting***?
2. One word prefaces all else in Samuel’s message to Israel – what is that word?
3. Samuel does not hesitate to let Israel know that ***certain conditions*** applied to their return. What are these conditions as seen in Chapter 7 – vs 3. Discuss.
4. Samuel offered to do only ***one thing*** for Israel – What was that thing?
5. Discuss the offering of the sucking lamb and Samuel’s intercessory prayer for Israel.
6. Discuss the results of this prayer as seen in Chapter 7 – Vs 13
7. Discuss vs 15, 16 & 17. “All the days of his life”.
8. What is the secret of his success as seen in vs 17?

1 SAMUEL 8 - DISAPPOINTMENT!

All of us face disappointments in our lives. What marks the difference between us is how we react to these disappointments! What is the **RESPONSE** from our hearts and **TO WHOM** do we go? This is the wonderful lesson we learn in studying the life of Samuel—he knew who to take these problems to! As we learn in chapter 8 about the discontent with Samuel by Israel, we are given certain reasons. Given the two alleged reasons for their wanting a change, we come to a very beautiful characteristic of the man Samuel as seen in verse 6.

1. What is our normal reaction when something displeases us? Discuss
2. What do you feel are some of the things that Samuel receives when he prays about this? Discuss.
3. Where or from whom do you feel Samuel learned the value of prayer?
4. Israel said to Samuel, “We **will have** a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations”. Discuss this desire they have expressed.
5. Having received instruction from the Lord as to what to tell the people, what does Samuel do when they refuse him?
6. Israel begins with a _____ and ends with the expression of their own _____. Discuss

CHAPTER 9 - “A CHOICE, YOUNG MAN”

1. Let’s discuss the features of this young man as seen in verses 1 – 3 and see why they might have been important to Israel.
2. Let’s look at verses 15 – 17 and see the relationship that continued between
Samuel and the Lord. Discuss:
 - a. “The Lord had told Samuel **in his ear**”
 - b. A day **before**
 - c. “And when Samuel saw Saul, **the Lord said unto him**”

CHAPTER 13 - "SAUL EXPOSED!"

1. Verse 6 shows "The people were _____."
Discussed
2. Verse 7 shows "All the people followed him _____".
3. Verses 11 & 12 show the **reasoning** process of this king.
Discuss:
 - a. "Because **I saw** that the people were scattered **from me**".
 - b. "And that **thou camest not** within the days appointed"
 - c. "**And** that the Philistines gathered themselves together"
 - d. "Therefore said I" - What does **situational ethics** mean?
 - e. "I **forced myself**..."????
4. Verse 13 Let's discuss the response of the man of prayer:
 - a. "Thou hast done foolishly" – Discuss
 - b. "Thou hast not kept **the commandment of the Lord** thy God"
5. Verse 14 **Consequences! Consequences!! Consequences!!!** Discuss

CHAPTER 15 - OBEDIENCE IS NOT OPTIONAL!!

1. **Verses 1 – 3** The commandment!
2. **Verses 4 – 9** Disobedience
3. Verses 10 – 11 The Word of the Lord
4. Verses 13 – 15 The defense of Saul
5. Verses 16 – 23 The Lord's thoughts!
6. Verses 32 – 35 Samuel acting FOR the Lord where Saul would not. Discuss

CHAPTER 16 - "A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART"

Chapter 16 begins with the Lord stating directly to Samuel "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him" and then the servant Samuel is given new instruction and one of the greatest privileges of his life. God is surely aware of the danger of Saul and Samuel is also.

1. Verse 2 - Samuel is given instructions to safeguard him.
Discuss
2. Verse 3 - What ***advance*** information is Samuel given.
3. Verse 6 - Samuel appears to make the same mistake that Israel made in choosing Saul - Discuss
4. Verse 7 - Discuss God's instructions to Samuel and how God allows all of Jesse's ***available*** sons to pass before him.
5. Verse 8 - Discuss the ***apparent shortcomings*** of David as far as man was concerned and why they were the very features God was looking for.
6. Verse 13- Discuss the wonderful enabler who came upon David from that day forward.