

Bible Study – Outline

1 Samuel

The Flesh and the Spirit

Overview

First Samuel is the story of two men, Saul and David. These two men illustrate for us the two principles in the heart of every Christian believer seeking to walk before God. They are the principle of flesh and the principle of faith. Saul is the man of the flesh, and David is the man of faith; the carnal believer and the spiritual believer. The fact that both of these men were kings beautifully illustrates the supremacy of the will in human life. As the book of Esther shows, each one of us is a king over a kingdom. Our will is supreme in our life. Even the Spirit of God does not violate it. We are ruling over the kingdom of our lives and our affairs, over those things that concern us personally and also the things that have an impact and influence upon others. What you, the king, say and do, influences the whole kingdom over which you reign.

Here, in these two kings, the two principles, which are in conflict in your life and in mine, are illustrated. We see in Saul the ruin caused by the will that is set on the flesh. In David you see beautifully illustrated the blessing, which is brought by the mind that is set on the Spirit. "To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." (Romans. 8:6) This conflict is illustrated in the book of 1 Samuel in the lives of these two men.

The book actually begins with the story of a third man, Samuel, who is the human expression of the voice of God to both Saul and David. These three men mark off the divisions of the book. The first seven chapters give us the life of Samuel. Chapters 8 through 15 present King Saul, the man of the flesh. Then in chapters 16 through 31, David, the man of faith, is eminent as an illustration of the mind set on the Spirit.

Samuel was the last of the judges and the first of the prophets. The events of this book take place right after Israel had passed through some three hundred or more years of the rule of the judges. (During that time the little episode of Ruth occurred.) Samuel is the chosen instrument of God to close out the realm of the judges and to introduce the beginning of the prophetic ministry and the monarchy.

Source: Adventuring Through the Bible by Ray Stedman

Key People

Elkanah
Hannah
Eli
Samuel
Saul
Jonathan
David
Goliath
Michal
Gad and Abiathar
Nabal
Abigail
Witch of Endor

Key Scriptures

1 Sam. 3:20	Samuel established as a prophet
1 Sam. 8:4-5	Rejection - "...make us a king to judge us like other nations."
1 Sam. 8:11 - 19	Warning - from the Lord what it will be like to have a king.
1 Sam. 12:22	The Lord will not forsake His people
1 Sam 12:24	Serve Him with truth and all your heart
1 Sam. 13:11-14	"...the Lord has sought a man after his own heart."
1 Sam. 15:1-9	Saul disobeys the Lord
1 Sam. 15:24	Saul feared the people more than the Lord
1 Sam. 15:35	The Lord repents He made Saul king
1 Sam. 16:7	The Lord looks on the heart
1 Sam. 16:14	The Spirit of the Lord is removed from Saul
1 Sam. 16:22-23	Obedience better than sacrifice
1 Sam. 17:37	the faith of David
1 Sam. 17:47	The Lord does not save by sword and spear
1 Sam. 21:4-6	The bread of life (John 6:35)
1 Sam. 28:17-18	the reason why David replaced Saul

Resources

www.biblegateway.com
www.biblestudytools.com
www.raystedman.org

THE BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL

The Story of Samuel	1 - 7
The birth and early years of Samuel	1 - 2
Samuel assumes leadership in Israel	3
Israel is conquered by the Philistines; the Philistines capture the Ark	4 - 5
The Ark returns, but Israel sins with the Ark and seventy die	6
Israel's victory over the Philistines	7
Saul, Israel's First King - The Man of the Flesh	8 - 15
Israel rejects the kingship of God	8
God chooses Saul as Israel's king	9 - 12
The reign of King Saul, successes and failures	13 - 14
God rejects Saul as King	15
David, Israel's Second King - The Man of Faith	16 - 31
God anoints David as King David defeats Goliath	16 - 17
Saul repeatedly attempts to kill David	18 - 20
David's rise in exile; protected by the priest; pretending to be insane	21
David flees; Saul kills the priests	22
David defeats the Philistines; Saul pursues David	23
David saves Saul's life	24
David marries Abigail	25
David saves Saul's life a second time	26
David joins the Philistines	27
Saul's disintegration; he visits the witch of Endor	28
David avoids fighting Saul	29
David defeats the Amalekites	30
The death of Saul	31

The Difference Between A King And A Judge

A judge was a leader raised up by God, usually to meet a specific need in a time of crisis. When the crisis was over usually the judge went back to doing what he did before. A **king** not only held his office as king as long as he lived, he also passed his throne down to his descendants.

i. Judges did not make a “government.” They met a specific need in a time of crisis. Kings establish a standing government with a bureaucracy, which can be both a blessing and a curse to any people.

ii. In Judges 8 Gideon was offered the throne over Israel. He refused it saying, *“I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.”* Judges 8:23

This was the heart of all the judges, and why Israel went some 400 years in the Promised Land without a king.

Discussion Questions

What is the significance of the Ark of the Covenant being captured by the Philistines? 1Sam. 4. Why was this a catastrophic event?

Did Samuel have the right to appoint his sons as Judges of Israel?

What are the lessons learned in 1 Sam. 15?

What was the purpose of David being anointed a king at the same time Saul was king? How can we apply this in our own lives?

David had two opportunities to kill Saul. Why did he not do it?

How did Abigail handle the situation between David and Nabal – what is the lesson we can learn from this? 1 Sam. 25. What was her rationale for preventing David from killing her husband?

What happens to Michal (and the story continues in II Samuel and I Chronicles)?

Trivia question - why did David pick up 5 smooth stones – hint is in 2 Samuel 21:22