

Title:                               **1 SAMUEL**  
  **Christ Our Great Savior and King**

Text:                               1 Samuel 9:27

Subject:                       *Lessons From 1 Samuel*

Introduction:

(1 Samuel 9:27) "Stand thou still a while, that I may show thee the word of God."

The children of Israel had been under the direct government of God himself throughout their history. The Lord God himself was their King. For almost 300 years the Lord God had administered his rule as King in Israel through the judges he raised up to deliver them.

But all the nations around them had kings in royal attire, sitting on splendidous thrones. When Samuel was an old man, after faithfully serving the nation as God's prophet and their judge, the men of Israel came to him and said, We want to be like these other nations. "*Give us a king to judge us...Make us a king to judge us like all the nations.*" Samuel was, of course, heart broken, after faithfully serving their souls his entire life, they turned on him and rejected him. That's enough to break any man's heart. But, they had in fact turned on God and rejected him. Therefore the Lord said to Samuel...

(1 Samuel 8:7-10) "And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. (8) According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. (9) Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

(10) And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king."

And Samuel told them exactly the kind of man their king would be, self-serving, cruel, abusive, and destructive.

(1 Samuel 8:19-20) "Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; (20) That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles."

How often have you wanted something, or wanted something to happen, so bad you could taste it, so bad that you just felt you had to have it? You prayed for it, prayed for it, and prayed for it. Then the Lord gave it to you; and you wished you had never heard of it. **God often gives us what we think we want, and then makes us live with the consequences for a long, long time.** The fact is, we never know what is best for us, and never know how to pray as we ought (Rom. 8:26).

Many years ago, **William Evans**, a Presbyterian preacher told a story about his daughter. His little girl, who was about eight years old, came home from school and said, "Daddy, I want to get some ball bearing skates. All the other children have ball bearing skates and that is what I want." He said, "But dear, you have a pair of skates." She replied, "Yes, I know Daddy, but they are not ball bearing skates. They are roller bearing skates. They won't go as fast as the others will."

Mr. Evans was a preacher. His income was limited. So he said, "Well, my dear, I'm afraid you will have to make do with the roller bearing skates. We simply can't afford to buy any others right now." But she wouldn't let him be. The next night when he came home from his work, there was a little note at his place on

the table. It said. "Dear Daddy, I still want the ball bearing skates." When he went to bed that night there was another note pinned to his pillow. It said, "Daddy, would you buy me some ball bearing skates?"

Well, he did the same thing you or I might have done. He scraped up the money and got those ball bearing skates for . When he gave them to her, she was elated with excitement. She threw her arms around his neck and hugged him and kissed him and thanked him. Then she put on those great, new ball bearing skates like all the other children had and took off, out the gate, down the sidewalk, and around the corner. That was the last time they ever saw her alive and well. As she went around the corner, the skates were too much for her to handle. She slipped and fell down, hitting her head against the sidewalk. They brought her home in a coma. She died at the hospital before the night was out. "Since then," Dr. Evans said, "when I want something of God and it seems as though he is not willing that I should have it but I keep crying out for it, the Spirit of God reminds me, 'Are you asking for ball bearing skates?'"

God often gives us what we want, and then makes us live with the consequences for a long, long time. This is what happened in Israel. How often we have experienced it in our own lives. Have I got your attention?

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The Book of 1 Samuel covers a period of about 115 years. It takes us from the birth of Samuel, the last of the judges to the death of their first king, Saul.

### **THREE PRINCIPLE CHARACTERS**

There are three principle characters in this Book, Samuel, Saul and David.

**Samuel**—This piece of Israel's history begins with the birth of Samuel and gives us a pretty detailed description of his life and ministry (1:1-10:27). He was born in a house where God was honored. He was a gift of God to his mother, Hannah, who dedicated him to the Lord before he was born. As soon as he was weaned, Hannah brought her boy to the house of God and gave him to the Lord. Soon, the Lord revealed himself to Samuel and made him a prophet. A faithful prophet he was to the day of his death.

**Saul**—Chapters 11-31 describe the sad, sad life and rule of Saul, Israel's first king. Saul was the gift of God's judgment to Israel. They wanted to be like all the other nations. They demanded a king. So God gave them Saul.

**David**—David comes on the scene in chapter 16. His noble character and his greatness is set before us and runs parallel with

Saul's life from chapter 16-31. David was the man after God's own heart, whom he chose to replace Saul as king over Israel.

Those facts are easily traced through this first of the historical books. But what does the Holy Spirit intend for us to learn from the historic facts recorded in these thirty-one chapters? Obviously, I cannot (and will not try to) give you everything our God would have us learn from these chapters. I make no pretense of knowing myself. But there are some very important spiritual lessons to be gleaned from 1 Samuel, lessons that will help you and me as we endeavor to live in this world for the glory of our God, serving the interests of his kingdom. Let's go through these thirty-one chapters together, gleaning the "*handfuls of purpose*" left here for us by our God.

## **WORSHIP**

- I. **1 Samuel begins with a man by the name of Elkanah, who teaches us something about the worship of our God** (1:1-4).

(1 Samuel 1:1-4) "Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite: (2) And he had two wives; the name of the one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. (3) And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there. (4) And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions."

This man's name, Elkanah, means "possession of God." Learn this first. **Worship is, at its core, the acknowledgement that we are God's possession.** I cannot say this often enough. Faith in Christ involves giving up ourselves to the rule and dominion of Christ our God, acknowledging him as our Lord.

(Mark 8:34-35) "And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (35) For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20) "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

That person who is possessed of God possesses God! What a swap we make, when we give up ourselves for Christ and to Christ!

- I give up my death for his life!
- I give up my emptiness for his fulness!
- I give up my sin for his righteousness!
- I give up my guilt for his atonement!
- I give up my way of cursedness for his way of blessedness!

**When Elkanah went up to worship God, he brought a sacrifice.**

- If we would worship God, we must come to him with the sacrifice he requires – Christ the Lamb of God, our sin-atoning Substitute.
- Elkanah brought a sacrifice involving personal cost. Worship always involves sacrifice.

## **PRAYER**

### **II. Elkanah's wife, Hannah, gives us instruction in the matter of prayer** (1:9-2:11).

I do not pretend to know much about prayer. I am always embarrassed when people come to me seeking help about prayer and ask me about how to pray. I know this: You will not find richer, more spiritual instruction about prayer than you will read in these first two chapters of 1 Samuel. Listen to this saintly lady, and learn what prayer is.

- As Hannah was driven to the throne of grace by the persecution of her adversary, Pininnah, we are often sluggish in prayer until the Lord graciously puts us in desperation. Hannah's prayer arose from her "*bitterness of soul,*" which caused her to weep sore before the Lord (1:10).
- Prayer is the cry of a child in need to be remembered by our heavenly Father – "*Remember me!*" (v. 11).
- Prayer is a matter of the heart, not the lip. – "*She spake in her heart...I have poured out my soul before the Lord*" (1:13, 15).
- Prayer obtains God's blessing (1:17-20).

Hannah came to the throne of grace in time of need, cast her burden on the Lord and left it there, having obtained the mercy she needed.

(1 Samuel 1:17-20) "Then Eli answered and said, **Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.** (18) And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance **was no more sad.** (19) And they rose up in the morning early, and **worshipped** before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and **the LORD remembered her.** (20) Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name **Samuel** (*Samuel means "heard of God."*), saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD."

- Prayer gives thanks, praise, adoration, honor and glory to the Lord God alone (2:1-10).

(Hebrews 4:16) "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

**The Lord God always honors those who honor him** (2:30).

(1 Samuel 2:30) "Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

## **CONSECRATION**

**III. Eli stands out, at least to me, as a marvelous example of and lesson about a believer's consecration to God** (chapters 3 and 4).

Eli was the priest in Israel; and he was a man of remarkable faith in and consecration to God. Yes, he had his faults. He did not restrain his wicked sons, but indulged them in their ungodly behavior. For that he was chastened of the Lord. But he was a remarkable man. He did reprove them; but he did not restrain them. And they refused to hear his reproof (2:24-25).

(1 Samuel 2:24-25) "Nay, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord's people to transgress. (25) If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall entreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them."

- When Samuel told him that the Lord was determined to kill his sons and take the priesthood from his house forever, he responded to God's Word and his will with exemplary faith.—"*It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good*" (3:18).
- When the ark of God was taken and his sons were killed by the Philistines, "*his heart trembled for the ark of God*" (4:13-18).—Eli was more concerned for the cause of Christ and the glory of God than he was for himself, his name, his sons, or his house.

## **GOD'S PROPHET**

### IV. **Samuel exemplifies what it is to be God's prophet.**

There are many, many examples of faithful prophets in the Word of God—Moses—Elijah—John the Baptist. But none outshine Samuel. He, too, like Eli had two sons that were sons of Belial; but he, too, was a faithful man throughout his life.

- Samuel faithfully declared God's Word (To Eli—To Israel—To Saul).
- Being a prophet, he was but the voice by whom God revealed himself, his Word, and his will to Israel. When Israel rejected him, they were not rejecting him, but God (1 Sam. 8:7; 2 Cor. 5:18-21).

(2 Corinthians 5:18-21) "And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. (21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

- Though the children of Israel rejected him and rejected his message, Samuel was faithful still to their souls and to God (1 Sam. 12:20-24).

(1 Samuel 12:20-24) "And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; (21) And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go* after vain *things*, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain. (22) For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. (23) Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: (24) Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great *things* he hath done for you."

## **OUR FLESH**

V. Saul stands before us as a very sobering lesson, a lesson we must constantly learn.—**When we indulge the lusts of our flesh, we bring misery to ourselves** (8:1-22).

Saul was the product of the flesh. He was exactly what Israel wanted, or thought they wanted. But he proved to be a source of unceasing pain and misery as long as he lived. Oh, how bitter the experience of this is; but it is a lesson that we must learn. Our flesh is our greatest enemy.

- The flesh prefers the authority of men to the authority of God. – Give us a king.
- The flesh craves the approval of flesh. – A king like the nations.
- The flesh seeks to govern the kingdom of God by the opinions of men rather than the Word of God.
- The flesh consults with and follows the flesh, rather than the revelation of God.
- The indulgence of the flesh always disturbs the peace of God’s kingdom.

## **ELECTION**

VI. **David teaches us who God’s elect are—Those we least suspect** (1 Sam. 16:12). – *“This is he!”*

## **PREVENIENT GRACE**

VII. **Abigail, Nabal’s wife shows us a lesson about God’s prevenient grace** (25:1-39).

How I adore the wonder of God’s providence. Israel’s choice of a king was used by our God to accomplish his purpose. He

graciously and wisely overruled their evil choice, their rebellion, and their sin to accomplish his own wise purpose for their good.

(Romans 8:28-30) "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. (29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

(Romans 11:33-36) "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? (35) Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? (36) For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen."

Prevenient grace is another of the mysteries of God's providence, for which we have great reason to praise him with thankful, humbled hearts. Prevenient grace is grace that goes before grace and keeps the objects of grace from much evil, even from the evil we would commit, if the Lord would let us.

(1 Samuel 25:32-33) "And David said to Abigail, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: (33) And blessed *be* thy advice, and blessed *be* thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand."

(1 Samuel 25:39) "And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from

evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife."

The whole Book of 1 Samuel is a marvelous display of divine sovereignty. God was in control of everything; and he still is. Blessed be his holy name! Nothing done by Israel, the Philistines, Saul, or anyone else could in any way hinder God's work or thwart his purpose!

### **TYPES OF CHRIST**

**VIII. Throughout this Book, indeed, throughout the Bible, David stands before us as a great type of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Long ago, John Gill stated that the Old Testament presents us with three categories of types, by which our Lord Jesus and God's great salvation in him were prefigured:—Institutional Types (The Ceremonies of the Law)—Providential Types (The Deliverances of Israel)—Personal Types (Individuals). David was one of the greatest of these personal types.

- A. David was a shepherd in Israel. The Lord Jesus Christ is our good and great Shepherd. David hazarded his life for his sheep; but Christ gave his life for his sheep.
- B. Jonathan made a covenant of love with David for the salvation of his house. The Lord God made a covenant of love with Christ for the salvation of his house.
- C. David was anointed and established of God as the king of Israel. Christ is the Lord's anointed King of Zion, established upon his throne forever.

- D. David slew Goliath with the most unlikely of weapons (a shepherd's sling), and cut off his head with the very sword by which Goliath planned to slay him and all of Israel. Our great Savior defeated sin, Satan, death and hell, and saved all Israel by his death upon the cross.
- E. All the schemes, plans, and devices by which Saul tried to thwart God's purpose and keep David from the throne only served to establish him and his kingdom. And all the schemes of hell to thwart our Savior and keep him from saving his people and reigning upon the throne of universal monarchy only served to accomplish God's gracious purpose.
- F. As David recovered all from the Amalekites and rescued his wives from their hands, so the Lord Jesus has recovered all for us and rescued his bride from all harm.
- G. As David made a law concerning the sharing of the spoils, so that every man had the same rich reward, so our Lord Jesus has given all his people all his wealth as the God-man our Savior (John 17:5, 22).

(John 17:5) "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

(John 17:22) "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:"

**Let us pray and praise our God with Hannah.**

(1 Samuel 2:1-10) "And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. (2) *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none*

beside thee: neither *is there* any rock like our God. (3) Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. (4) The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. (5) *They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble. (6) The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. (7) The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. (8) He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them. (9) He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. (10) The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed."

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<sup>1</sup> Date: Tuesday Evening—March 25, 2003—Wichita Falls, TX (03/09/03)  
Tape # X-50b  
Readings: *Bob Duff and Larry Criss—Psalm 2*