

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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I Samuel

An overview of the book of I Samuel

Introduction

The two books of I and II Samuel cover a period of 125 years which dates the book at approximately 990 to 865 BC. These books are a continuation of the chronological events in the history of Israel. I and II Samuel fall under the time period known as, "Period of Judges" (the previous periods are commonly known as the Antediluvian, Postdiluvian, Patriarchal, Bondage, Wanderings, and Conquest periods of history). The author of I and II Samuel is unknown.

Contents of Book

Eli and Samuel are recognized as the last Judges of Israel. The condition of Israel, at the time of the birth of Samuel, was deplorable. Eli, the high priest, had two sons who were reprobates (cf. I Sam. 2:12). The people of God were guilty of idolatry (I Sam. 7:3). The Philistines were in power and God's people had somewhat lost their identity of being a holy and royal nation. Within such a godless society Samuel comes upon the scene as a breath of fresh air. Samuel's godly character is put in contrast to Eli and his sons wickedness with regularity in the early chapters (see I Sam. 2:18; 3:1, 25-26, 29). Eventually, Eli and his sons die and Samuel remains as the lone judge and prophet of Israel.

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Darlene York continues to take care of Calvin at home and said that his memory is getting worse. She appreciates our prayers, calls, and cards that she has received.

Be sure and keep the Husaks in your daily prayers. Walter's dad (Walter Husak - Papaw) had hip replacement surgery and is now home after a stint at Health South for rehabilitation. Walter is currently doing his rehab at home.

Class notes for the Revelation study and I Samuel will be posted on our website very soon:

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

The people of Israel were confused because nothing seemed to be going right for them. When they lost four thousand men in a battle against the Philistines at I Samuel 4 they proclaim, "*Wherefore hath Jehovah smitten us today before the Philistines*" (4:3)? Israel decides to bring the ark of Jehovah to the battle against the Philistines yet once again they are defeated and this time they loose thirty thousand men (see I Sam. 4:5-11). Just when Israel thought that things could be no worse they loose fifty thousand men when they unlawfully look upon the Ark of the Covenant (I Sam. 6:19). The people conclude, "*Who is able to stand before Jehovah, this holy God? And to whom shall he go up from us*" (I Sam. 6:20)? Samuel gives Israel the remedy for their spiritual sickness and great loss of life. Israel had sinned and they were in need of humble repentance. Once the people of God repented things came to be better for them (see I Sam. 7:3-11). Their next sin would not be far away. Israel demands a king of Samuel and the Lord complies with their wicked wishes yet latter demands their repentance (see I Sam. 8:4-7; 12:17-20).

Character Sketches in I Samuel

I Samuel is a study of three primary characters; i.e., Samuel, Saul, and David. David is depicted as one who was after God's heart (I Sam. 13:14), humble (I Sam. 24:14; 26:20), and very respectful to God's anointed king (I Sam. 24:8ff etc.). While Samuel's convicted spirit and position of God's prophet plays an important role too it is Saul, the first king of Israel, that takes the foremost place in the book.

God was with Saul at the beginning of the study (I Sam. 10:7). Saul's conviction and faith is depicted in that early on as king he put away all those who had a familiar spirit and wizards out of the land (I Sam. 28:3-6). Saul; however, quickly falls apart. His worldly desire of power and authority among men slowly gets the better of him (see John 12:43). Saul's lack of faith and reverential fear of Jehovah God is depicted in his disobedience on three primary occasions. First, Saul disobeyed God in that he fearfully made a sacrifice that Samuel was suppose to make (I Sam. 13). Secondly, Saul disobeyed God in that he did not utterly destroy the Amalekites (I Sam. 15). Thirdly, Saul disobeyed God and

showed a lack of fear when he persistently pursued after David to kill him. This wrong was magnified in the eyes of God due to the fact that Saul knew that it was the Lord's will that David eventually reign as king (see I Sam. 24:20). Saul's worldly ambitions that contradicted God's will are clearly identified at I Sam. 20:30-31. The official event that sealed Saul's identification of a madman was the murdering of all priest, people, and animals of Nob because they supposedly helped David (I Sam. 22:6ff).

Lessons Learned from I Samuel

Like any study of God's word there are many lessons that can be gained from the book. David's respect for God's anointed king brings to mind the Christian's responsibility to respect and honor those in authoritative positions today (see Rom. 13:7; I Pet. 2:17). The grand lesson of I Samuel; however, is that Jehovah's authorized words will be obeyed and respected regardless of man's objectives. Those who reject His authority will be brought to their knees. The book begins with Eli and his sons losing their lives due to their sinful behavior (I Sam. 2-7). Secondly, the book records the death of eighty four thousand Israelites due to their sin (I Samuel 4-7). Nabal, the wicked rich man, also loses his life at the hands of Jehovah God (I Sam. 25:39). Finally, Saul is killed due to his wickedness (I Sam. 26:20; 31:4).

Christians should see through a study of Saul's life that when we are hardened against God's will it progressively waxes worse (II Pet. 2:20). Though Saul recognized his error and confessed it to God he did not change (see I Sam. 15:24-25; 24:16-20; 26:21). We may recognize our error, asks the Lord to forgive us, and yet if we will not purpose to change our lives we may find ourselves like Saul. Those who truly overcome are identified as God's elect saints. We will be as Noah who found favor in God's eyes (Gen. 6:8), Abraham who was considered a friend of God's (James 2:23), and Job who was perfect, upright, feared God, and turned away from evil (Job 1:8).

John E. Robertson

The World's Bible

Introduction:

Though many could care less what others think about them it is obvious that God does care what the world thinks about His beloved saints.

- I.** Public Perception of the Christian
- II.** Public Acts of the Christian
- III.** Public's Expectations are not always founded in Truth

Conclusion:

No one is above the law of Christ (see I Tim. 5:19-20).