

## **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel--The end of the Judges, and the time of the Kings** **Lessons in Character, Authority and Accountability**

**Historical Timeline:** Covers 140 years of action (1150 – 1010 BC)

**Written by:..?** Contributors poss. Samuel, Abiathar, Nathan, Gad....??

**Written when?** Between 931 and 722 BC, using earlier documents

**What was going on? Days of the Judges is nearly over. Samuel, being the last Prophet/Judge over Israel, is about to be born. *The people demand “CHANGE”...***

- ✓ **Hannah dedicates Samuel to God**, and sees him grow to change and lead a nation. He learns to listen to God.
- ✓ **Samuel exposes evil** in the nation, and the people grow to trust him.
- ✓ **Ark of God** stolen by Philistines as a good luck charm, who return it two chapters later after they reap the consequences.
- ✓ **The people plead for a king** to avoid Samuel’s knucklehead sons ruling.
- ✓ **Samuel relents**, selects Saul, a Benjamite, to lead them.
- ✓ **Saul triumphs in battle** and becomes recognized for his leadership.
- ✓ **Saul falls in love** with himself, and takes certain liberties-militarily, spiritually and morally. He begins to experience a level of personal torment.
- ✓ **God moves Samuel** to find Saul’s successor, the unlikely teenager David, and anoints him for a future kingship.
- ✓ **David plays his harp** for the tormented Saul.
- ✓ **David takes on Goliath** of Gath as the Philistines taunt the Israelites—
- ✓ **David gains popularity** as a youth, forms friendship with Jonathan, and draws the jealousy and hatred of King Saul (see 18:9—*Saul ‘eyed David’*).
- ✓ **David marries into the ‘fam’**---Saul hopes that she will be ‘*a snare*’ to David
- ✓ **Saul persecutes David** for 4 long chapters—David refuses to take things into his own hands and trusts God for vindication. Samuel dies.
- ✓ **Saul ‘gets his’—Jonathan killed**—Saul is wounded, asks for assisted suicide.
- ✓ **David grieves for them as if Saul had actually been good to him**—true mark of loyalty.

**Life Lessons: Samuel—Give your kids to God. He can use them to change nations regardless of age. Speak truth—just make sure you are clean first.**

**Saul---**Your calling doesn't make it all OK—do only what you're called to Don't give place to resentment, jealousy... Don't be afraid of your successor.

**David—**God may anoint you for a task years later---hang in and submit. Recognize authority as from God—don't criticize and disqualify yourself. Lastly, God notices injustices toward you, and will eventually act.

**Jonathan—**Keep your loyalties straight—even when caught in between

**Finally—**God's hand is on human events and leaders, good and bad. Our job is to humbly petition on their behalf, and keep our mouths in check.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel: Picking up where 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel left off

**Setup: Kingdom is still divided, 'Saul's house' (Israel) and David's (Judah)**

- ✓ David is anointed King of Judah at about age 30.
- ✓ After Saul's death, there is a power grab for the throne of Israel, with his son Ishbosheth winning.
- ✓ Saul's house is diminished, and David's is increased as they clash.
- ✓ Elders from Israel submit to David King of Judah after Ishbosheth's death—the kingdom is finally united after David has ruled Judah for 7 ½ years.

*NOTE: God working in history, again, with parallel to our own Civil War. Lincoln, like David, saw the spiritual destiny of the 'kingdoms'—north and south—and the political/military kingdoms, as one and the same. As result, God favored the leader that sought unity and healing. David made that distinction, though Saul never could, so David is chosen to succeed. God is involved in the affairs of nations.*

- ✓ The theme of the coming Messiah/King emerges. God uses the Davidic Kingdom to illustrate this for the Hebrews. 2Sam 7:16 says that 'your House...Kingdom.. Throne will be established forever' points to Jesus, Lion of Judah.
- ✓ David repeatedly defeats enemies in battle, and unparalleled prosperity reigns.
- ✓ Satan exploits David's moral weaknesses, he falls into sin, both adultery and then a subsequent elimination of the husband, seen as murder by God. Nathan tells them that 'the sword will not depart from him' (12:10).
- ✓ Absalom instigates a rebellion against Dad, and causes David to go back into exile. He is eventually allowed to return to Jerusalem, but the damage is done.
- ✓ The book ends with 2 poems, a listing of David's mighty men, one, final sin of pride, repentance. He is not allowed to build a 'house' to contain the Ark of the Covenant because of his past, but, again, Jesus will establish David's House forever.

### Life Lessons from 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel

- 1) As in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, God has a hand in history. Unhappy? Talk to him rather than talking to each other.  
God uses (even) sinful people to accomplish His purposes.
- 2) As with Saul, anointing and calling is never enough, as character will eventually come into play.
- 3) Embrace forgiveness as a lifestyle; people will be good to give you numerous opportunities to do so. If you don't believe me, become a pastor...