

13021-E The Book of 1 Samuel**March 13, 2013****I. Intro: Ezekiel 36:25-27: Note 3 things about the New Covenant**

- a. *You'll be cleansed from impurities and idolatry:* This is more than a ceremonial cleansing. Those who trust Jesus as their Savior will have all of their sin forgiven; there will be an internal cleansing through faith in Christ Jesus.
- b. *You'll receive a new heart:* The Lord will exchange your rebellious heart of stone for a sensitive heart of flesh; see Jeremiah 33:33.
- c. *You'll receive a new Spirit:* When you enter into the New Covenant you also receive a new spirit, God's Holy Spirit, who enables a believer to live faithfully and obediently before the Lord.

II. Background: A Book of Transitions

- a. *Records about 105 years of Israel's history:* So while it doesn't cover a huge time span, 1 Samuel covers a hugely important time period, because it...
- b. *Records a time of transition for the nation of Israel.* Beginning in 1 Samuel, we see a transition taking place from a loosely affiliated group of tribes into a united nation headed by a King.
- c. *Records the stories of Samuel--the Kingmaker, Saul--the Failed King and David--the Ideal King.* The author of 1 Samuel records the time of transition in Israel by recording the stories of the three men who were so central to its development.

III. Tracking the Transition through the Story of Samuel (chaps. 1-7):

- a. Birth of Samuel (chapter 1):

- i. The Lord hears the prayers of one grieving, anguished woman and answers her prayers.
 - ii. Samuel's birth was this gracious, miraculous work of God.
 - b. The Decline of Eli's Sons & the Rise of Samuel (chapters 2-3)
 - i. "Samuel's word came to all Israel." The prophet of the Lord.
 - c. The Ark Narratives (chapters 4-7)
 - i. **The Ark is captured:** Israel started to see the Ark of the Covenant not as the presence of the Lord, which it was, but as a magical charm, a way to bring God in on their side when they were threatened by enemies.
 - ii. **Humiliation of Dagon:** God would not be manipulated by His own people, nor would He permit the Philistines to think that their victory of the Israelites and their capture of the ark demonstrated the superiority of their god over the God of Israel!
 - d. Israel asks for a King (Chapter 8)
 - i. They exchanged humble faith in the provision, protection and power of the Lord Almighty for misguided reliance on military strength through a King!
 - ii. Remember we're still in the period of the Judges and key expression in the time of the Judges was "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" and the moment you begin to do only what's right in your own eyes is the moment you start taking your cues from the culture and start adopting its practices...which is what Israel did in asking for a King.

IV. Tracking the Transition through the Story of Saul (chaps. 9-15)

- a. Saul is Anointed King (chapters 9 and 10)
 - i. Utterly impressive looking. Looks the part of a King.

- b. Saul Rescues Jabesh Gilead (chapter 11)
 - i. Military success and public support =
 - ii. Confirmation of Kingship
- c. Inauguration and Covenant Renewal (chapter 12)
 - i. Samuel calls Israel to repentance and renewal and gives the requirements for Israel's King.
 - ii. The King was not to be autonomous in his authority and power; rather, he was to be subject to the Law of the Lord and the word of the Prophet. The king was to be an instrument of the Lord's rule over his people, and the people and the king were to continue to recognize the Lord as their ultimate King.
- d. Saul Violates the Kingship Requirements (chapters 13-15)
 - i. Disobeys the word of the Prophet (13:13)
 - ii. Disobeys the word of the Lord (15:1-21)
 - iii. The Lord rejects Saul as King (15:22-28)

V. Tracking the Transition through the Story of Saul and David (chaps. 16-31)

- a. Samuel anoints David—the man after God's own heart (chapter 16)
 - i. Ruth's great-grandson.
 - ii. The least likely to be selected.
- b. David & Goliath (chapter 17)
 - i. The story of David and Goliath is really the story of Jesus and sin/death.
 - ii. Christ Jesus goes forth on our behalf, as our substitute and defeats our greatest enemy and all the benefits of His victory are given to us!

- iii. Just as Israel rejoiced and worshipped as David stood victoriously over the defeated Goliath, so too, can we worship Jesus as he sits enthroned victoriously over sin and death.
- c. Saul's Jealousy of David (chapter 18)
- d. David's on the Run (chapters 19-30)
 - i. Yet Makes a Covenant with Jonathan (chapter 20)
 - ii. Yet Spares Saul's life, twice (chapter 24 & 26).
 - 1. Why did David do that? Because the Lord instructed him too.
 - 2. He obeyed the word of the Lord—even when it would have been easy to justify going against it. Why was David a man after God's own heart? Because he was more concerned with following the Lord than leading a nation!
- e. Saul Takes His Life (chapter 31)
 - i. Saul and his three sons die in battle.
 - ii. The men of Jabesh Gilead (who Saul had rescued) came and took down Saul's body.

VI. **Closing: The Message of 1 Samuel should....**

- a. **Crush Us:** Our disobedience to the Law of the Lord (The Torah) and the prophet of the Lord (Jesus; Hebrews 1:1-3) reveal to us that our heart is more like Saul's than David's. So the message of 1 Samuel should crush us, but it also should...
- b. **Liberate Us:** We repent and trust David's greater Son, the True King, who was the ultimate prophet of the Lord and completely fulfilled the Law of the Lord and through the Cross gives to us forgiveness, His record of obedience *and* the new heart we desperately need and we *really* want!

- c. **Enable Us:** The message of 1st Samuel crushes us, it liberates us and it enables us to live faithful, yet humble lives. The new heart the Lord gives us empowers us to live faithfully for Him, while at the same time, it gives to us a new sense of humility—knowing our relationship with Christ isn't based on our efforts but upon His grace.