

FIRST SAMUEL

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

A. SETTING:

1. Close of Judges - through reign of Saul.
2. Much information about the early life of David.

B. It points up our need for and dependence on God & obedience to His Will.

1. Man's plans in religion always fail:
 - a. Not just once in a while.....Not just usually.....
 - b. Not just probably fail.....**but always fail.**
 2. God's plan always succeed.
 3. One always brings rejection - while other always brings acceptance.
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God's Providence Important

A. We can see this in the lives of numerous characters, especially in Hannah, Samuel and David.

B. HANNAH:

1. Teaches us a lesson about dealing with bitterness when she took hers to the Lord. (1:10).
2. Her prayer was fervent, persistent and specific.
 - a. Elkanah had two wives - allowed under Mosaic law.
 - b. Peninnah was unkind to Hannah, driving her to the throne of grace for help, without which Samuel might never have been born.
3. As Christians we need to recognize that:
 - a. Providence and persecution are related (2 Tim. 3:12).
 - b. And that God can bring good out of bad situation, if we are faithful.

C. The setting up of the Hebrew monarchy with Saul as first King illustrates the divine principle that when men are determined to have their own way God will let them have it (while rebuking them) and then in turn He will use that which he let men have to punish them for disobedience.

D. Many other examples, but only one more - David and Goliath.

1. It illustrates:
 - a. The manner in which true faith in God views, attacks, and conquers enemies and obstacles at which mere human courage trembles.
 - b. And the importance of using the best methods in reliance upon divine strength.
2. "I come to thee in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will Jehovah deliver thee into my hand...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, (17:45-47).

FIRST SAMUEL

Page 2

Parental Discipline Important

- A. Eli was the priest to whom Hannah reported her plight - He had judged Israel for forty years and therefore knew:
 - 1. The Lord's requirements.
 - 2. And every abuse of those requirements.
 - B. Eli appears to have been a personable, pious, godly man but his tragic downfall was in rearing of his children" ("Now the sons of Eli were base men; they knew not Jehovah".)
 - C. He was getting old, but he did at least confront his sons:
 - 1. Accepted reports against them (different from some parents)
 - 2. Pointed out they caused others to sin.
 - 3. Showed them the seriousness of sin.
 - D. He reproved them but he did not do all in his power to restrain them.
 - E. POEM:... "We Need More Grandpas" (back sheet)
 - F. With Eli blood is truly thicker than scripture.
 - G. SAD that Samuel did not learn from this and ended up much the say way.
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Righteousness Is Important

- A. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34)..
 - B. The Philistines, killing 4,000 men defeated the Israelites and the elders asked: "Wherefor hath Jehovah smitten us today before the Philistines?"
 - 1. Right question - but got wrong answer.
 - 2. Brought up "Ark of Covenant" so that it might magically save them.
 - 3. They ignored the sin that caused this down fall.
 - 4. How very much like our nation today.
 - 5. It is hard to find a bona-fide sinner...
 - a. "Motivation deficiency due to deprivation"
 - b. "Ethically disoriented" or "socially maladjusted" (liar).
 - C. In I Sam. 4:10-22 - Israel is slaughtered, the ark taken, and Eli's sons are killed and Eli dies.
 - D. THOUGHT: Do not many members of the church today think that the mere presence of a Bible in their home or that merely membership in the church is a guarantee of God's presence?
 - 1. Has the unread and disobeyed Bible become our "Ark of the Covenant?"
 - 2. There is no substitute for righteousness.
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FIRST SAMUEL

Page 3

Importance of Details (Word)

- A. It has ever been man's tendency to ascribe himself the right to pay no attention to the details of God's word. In I Samuel we learn:
1. **WHEN MAN REJECTS God'S word, he has rejected God, and God in turn rejects him.**
 2. When man acts without the authority of God's word, he rejects God, and is thereby rejected by Him.
 3. When man truly accepts God's word, then God accepts and blesses him.
- B. Saul and Sacrifice:
1. Did not wait; was not a priest; God rejected him.
- C. Saul's plea of "necessity" should be noticed.
1. In all areas of faith and practice.
 2. Later tried the excuse of blaming someone else.
 3. In effect saying his plan for (Agag and animals) was better than God's.
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Book Preserved Because

1. That we might know that when man rejects God and His way (I Sam. 8:7) in order to follow their own, the end is always disaster for man.
 2. To live a life of faith is to live a life of taking God at His word (Rom. 10:17).
 3. When God offers a blessing, he offers instruction as to what men must do in order to gain that blessing and we must follow it or we will not receive His gift.
 4. SEE: "Details Are Important"; points 1, 2, and 3.
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WE NEED MORE GRANDPAS!

Junior bit the meter man; Junior hit the cook!

Junior's "anti-social" now (according to the book)

Junior smashed the clock and lamp; Junior hacked the tree!

(Destructive trends are treated in Chapters 2 & 3.

Junior threw his milk at Mom; Junior screamed for more!

(Notes on "self-assertiveness" are found in Chapter 4)

Junior tossed his shoes and socks out into the rain,

("Negation," that is normal, disregard the strain)

Junior set Dad's shirt afire; whittled Grandpa's pipe;

(That's to gain attention, see page 89).

Grandpa sized a slipper and yanked Junior cross his knee;

(He's read nothing but the Bible since 1893)!