

STUDY GUIDE FOR BOOK OF I SAMUEL

I. INTRODUCTION.

- a. Name taken from chief character of book.
- b. Author is unknown—except the ancient Jewish Talmud view holds Samuel to be author of chapters 1-24 and Nathan, the prophet, as author of chapters 25-31. (I. Chron. 29:30)
- c. Period covered is that of last two Judges of Israel, the reign of Saul and David's anointing as King.
- d. Book begins with Hannah's prayer and vow re: son, Samuel and ends with death of King Saul.

II. BACKGROUND.

- a. Originally, 1st and 2nd Samuel were one book in Hebrew Bible.
- b. Life story of Samuel is told as he was dedicated to the service of God & served as both Judge and Prophet.
 - i. Delivered to tabernacle at age 2-3 and lived in household of Eli, the priest.
 - ii. At Eli's death, he became Israel's sole spiritual and civil leader.
 - iii. Considered one of greatest figures of Israel's history, following Moses.

III. MESSAGES OF I SAMUEL.

- a. Together with II Samuel, shows the divine origin of the "throne of David".
- b. Message summarized in Lord's words to Samuel, "The Lord sees not as man sees".

IV. LESSONS FROM I SAMUEL.

- a. **"BEHOLD TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE..." (I SAMUEL 15:22)**
 - i. Partial Obedience. (I Samuel 15:9-11)
 - ii. Source of Disobedience—Pride. (I Samuel 15:14-19)
 - iii. Having worthy aim or purpose doesn't negate need for obedience to God. (I Sam. 15:15 and 15:21)
 - iv. God Requires Obedience. (I Sam. 15:22-23)
- b. **THEY FAILED AS FATHERS.**
 - i. Eli—priest, Judge and father.
 1. Sons of Eli—Hophni and Phinehas. (I Samuel 2:12-25)
 - ii. Samuel—Judge, prophet and father.
 1. Sons of Samuel—Joel and Abiah. (I Samuel 8:1-5)
- c. **DAVID—EARLY GROWTH UNDER TRIAL.**
 - i. Saul seeks on many occasions to kill David—angered by God's rejection.
 1. I Sam. 16:14—indicates an "evil spirit" began to torment Saul. Likely Saul became depressed and insanely jealous of David's approval by God.
 2. David becomes a fugitive always on the run. (I Samuel chapters 21-26)
 3. During David's ordeal, he didn't seem to question God or become bitter toward God. (I Samuel 24:1-7)

V. CONCLUSION.