

Why Consider Samuel?

November 19, 2023

Pastor Mark Turner

1 Samuel 1

Oak Community Church (PCA)

Why study a 3000 year old book?

- Part of God's Holy Inspired Word
- Given and preserved for us Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11

How to study 'Preached History'?

- beware of 'moralizing' it... *be like ___ and you will ___*
- Who wrote it? Don't know. 1 Sam^{25:1}; 1Chr^{29:29}
- To whom was it written? Likely after division of nation around 930BC to show God's covenant plan 2Sam^{7:16}
- What kind of literature? Preached History which shows us the need for the true Messiah – Jesus Christ

Context & Setting:

- In Hebrew bible, Samuels follow Judges^{21:25}
- Problem for Israel was not lack of a king, but their lack of obedience to their God as King
- Israel wants king like other nations^{1S8:5}; rejects God^{1S8:7}
- Samuel causes us to long for promised Messiah^{2S7:16}

3 Key Figures in Samuel:

- Samuel - last of the judges, prophet. Chps¹⁻⁷
- Saul - handsome worldly qualified king. Chps⁸⁻¹⁵
- David, man after God's heart^{Act13:22} but still sinner. Chps¹⁶⁻²¹

The Birth of Samuel:

- Really 'dry' start, *there was a certain man*
- Could this man be the next king^{Jdg17:6;18:1;19:1;21:25}
- God has done this before^{Jdg13:2} Samson's parents...
- UNIQUE fact given: *he had two wives*² - not prescriptive
- Trouble; conflict, relational difficulties due to polygamy
- Polygamy is NOT God's design as given - Jesus^{Mt19:8}
- Hannah loved but God closed her womb^{5,6}; Peninnah fruitful and provoking.
- Barrenness-sign of trouble^{Dt7:14}; stops blessing^{Gen22:18}

Hannah's Plight:

- Under God's sovereign control^{1S1:5,6}, within His plan
- Not alone: Sarah^{Gen16:1}, Rachel^{Gen30:22}
- Imagine the despair... But God is doing great things!
- Hannah turns to God in prayer
- We must in our despair (looking at circumstances) instead turn to God, trusting His plan is always best^{Mt10:39} even when we can't see it.