

PRAYING MEN OF THE BIBLE

#9 SAMUEL – THE CHILD OF PRAYER

MARCH 29, 2023

“That was a grand action by Jerome, one of the Roman fathers. He laid aside all pressing engagements and went to fulfill the call God gave him, viz. to translate the Holy Scriptures. His congregations were larger than many preachers of today but he said to his people, “Now it is necessary that the Scriptures be translated; you must find you another minister: I am bound for the wilderness and shall not return until my task is finished.” Away he went and labored and prayed until he produced the Latin Vulgate which will last as long as the world stands. So we must say to our friends, “I must away and have time for prayer and solitude.” And though we did not write Latin Vulgates yet our work will be immortal: Glory to God.” Rev. C H Spurgeon

SCRIPTURE

Book of 1 Samuel

Central Truth: If we are to enjoy and operate in the blessing of a thriving prayer culture at church, it must first be established, exercised and understood in the home.

Who was Samuel?

- 1/ Samuel was born to a devout couple: Elkanah and Hannah who were childless.
- 2/ Samuel was given to the service of the Lord at a very young age – “lent unto the Lord.”
- 3/ Samuel is often called the last of the judges and the first of the prophets.

What did Samuel do?

- 1/ Samuel heard the voice of the Lord and obeyed.

1 Samuel 3:10 The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

- 2/ Samuel preached repentance and called upon Israel to turn away from their idols.

1 Samuel 7:2-4 Then all the people of Israel turned back to the LORD. ³ So Samuel said to all the Israelites, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” ⁴ So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.

3/ Samuel anointed Israel's first kings – Saul and David.

1 Samuel 9 (Saul is anointed) and 1 Samuel 16 (David is anointed).

How was prayer a priority of Samuel's Life?

1/ Samuel was raised by a praying mother and in the "house of prayer."

1 Samuel 1:10, 11 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

1 Samuel 2:18, 26

¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod.

²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.

2/ Samuel cried out to the Lord on behalf of Israel and the Lord defeated the Philistines!

1 Samuel 7:8, 9 They said to Samuel, "Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines." ⁹ Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel's behalf, and the LORD answered him.

3/ In every situation Israel faced, Samuel first turned to the Lord in prayer!

1 Samuel 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us.
And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

Christian Life Lessons

1/ Praying Samuels come from praying Hannahs.
Praying priests come from the "house of prayer."
Praying leaders come from praying homes.

2/ Whether leading a family, leading a business, leading a team or leading a nation, we must first go to the Lord in prayer!

3/ We must hear the voice of the Lord and obey!