

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE OF SAMUEL SERIES**

You will notice that we chose chapter three to introduce this series on the life of Samuel. We chose chapter three because it is important to the calling of Samuel becoming a prophetic minister of the word of God.

Like Samuel each of us can divide our life into stages of the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

For example, We had:

- A **life before** salvation
- A **life after** salvation as a baby believer - then
- A **life of advancing in our spiritual growth** - and now
- A **life** into our **spiritual calling of ministry** for Christ.

This final stage is why two books of the Bible are named after Samuel. **Yet his life is finished after chapter 25 in I Samuel.** Yet there are 31 chapters in I Samuel and 24 chapters in II Samuel.

Samuel takes a back seat in chapters to other believers that dominant these two books. Jesus taught this doctrinal principle to His disciples in Mark 9:33-37. "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be **last of all and servant of all.**" (Mark 9:35) Principle: What type of follower you are will influence what type of leader you will become.

(Matt.11:11) "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Do you wonder if Samuel is mentioned in Book of Hebrew?

(Heb.11:32) "And what more can I say? For time, will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets." (Heb.11:32-40) [5 Judges].

Samuel is the last Judge but this is not where he was put in Heb.11:32, Why?

<p><b>This lesson will study <u>four points</u> of Introduction to Life of Samuel (12<sup>th</sup> century BC).</b></p>
---

### **1. The birth story of the Samuel is the second most read in the Christian home and church. It is second only to the birth story of Jesus Christ (Luke 1-2).**

Samuel was born into the priestly tribe of Levi.

(I Sam.1:1) "Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite." [Ramah]

Biblical historians believe that Elkanah was a Kohathite priestly singer of Tabernacle (1 Chron.6:16, 22-23, 26-28, 32-34) who lived in Ephraim.

"So far as his civil standing was concerned, he belonged to the tribe of Ephraim, the Levites being reckoned as belonging to those tribes in the midst of which they lived." (Unger Bible Dict, Pg.310) (Judges 19:1)

**2. Samuel was sent to a priestly boarding school of the High Priest, Eli, as a toddler to the service of the Tabernacle (I Sam.1-2).**

This teaches how important the will of God is personally to the direction of a believer's life even when a child has godly parents. Hanna thought that Samuel should follow the family into priestly service but God had a different plan for Samuel (I Sam.1:22-28; 2:11).

Because Hanna wanted the best spiritual priestly training for Samuel, she sent him away from home and godly parenting and siblings bonding.

Notice Elkanah's response to Hanna decision (I Sam.1:21, 1:15-16). This is not godly parenting.

Question: What is best for the family and child based on the word of God? (Prov.22:6; Deut.4:9)

Godly parenting directs the child towards their heavenly Father because of spiritual growth maturity as adults not toddler babies (Matt.6:9-15; John 17:1-26; and Matt.26:36-46).

Think about what she lost by thinking ahead of the plan of God; and in the end, he didn't serve the ministry of his earthly father, but rather his heavenly Father.

**3. It is chapter three that God reveals His will for the ministry of Samuel.**

This revelation is 1 of 8 recorded incidents where Lord speaks the name of the person being called.

The Lord called out the name of Samuel four times (I Sam.3:4-10) [our lesson text]. Others that the Lord called by name were Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Simeon, Martha, My Beloved Son, and Saul of Tarsus.

The Lord called Samuel to be a prophet to the nation of Israel (I Sam.3:19-21). He was the first national prophet after Moses.

(Jer.15:1) "Then the Lord said to me, 'Even though **Moses and Samuel** were to stand before Me, My heart would not be with this people; send them away from My presence and let them go!"

(I Sam.3:20) "**All Israel** from Dan even to Beersheba **knew** that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord." (Judges 20:1)

**Principle:** You don't have to toot your own ministry horn or engage in some advertising campaign to get ministry. If it is of God, He will make it known to others. Maybe if you must toot your horn, you should consider a music ministry?

**4. We will examine a seven-point overview of what God had in mind for Samuel's ministry in the plan of God.**

This will address why Samuel is listed after David in (Heb.11:32).

- Following Israel's 350 years of pure theocracy judgeship government, Samuel was the nation's last judge. (1 Sam.7:15-17)
- He was a great prophet to a theocracy monarchy government (Acts 13:19-22).
- He was a great personal pastor-teacher to its first two kings: Saul and David.
- He was a great spiritual reformer to the declining nation of Israel (Judges 21:25; 2 Chron.35:16-19).
- He established a theological seminary for prophets (I Sam.19:20; 10:5-12).
- He was a writer of Holy Scriptures (I Sam.10:25).
- He was a great intercessor of prayer (I Sam.12:19-25) [Samuel] (God answers prayer) (1 Sam.1:20; Ps.99:6).