

## **SAMUEL'S SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL THEOLOGY (SBT)**

The Lord called Samuel early in his life to be a prophet to Israel (1 Sam.3:19-21).

(1 Sam.3:20) “All Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord.”

In Samuel's national address of the transition between Judgeship to a Theocracy Monarchy, he introduced himself to Israel as the prophet to the nation and to the king (1 Sam.12).

(1 Sam.12:18) “So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.”

In this address, Samuel warned the Israelites “do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.” (1 Sam.12:20b)

<b>This lesson will study six aspects of Samuel's School of Biblical Theology for the nation of Israel.</b>
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### **1. As both a judge and prophet, Samuel was a spiritual reformer of the truth of God's word.**

(1 Sam.12:23-25) “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way. Only fear the Lord and serve in Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your kings will be swept away.”

Samuel is mentioned in the fourth book of the Psalms (1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; and 107-150). The fourth opens with a prayer of Moses (Ps.90).

### **2. In the hymn of God's kingship of Ps.99, Samuel is mentioned along with Moses and Aaron in the “Exalt the Lord our God” section of worship (Ps.99:5-9).**

These three ministered during a time of great apostasy of their nation (Jer.15:1) [read].

Hebrews, chapters 3-4 talk about the apostasy during Moses and Aaron.

(Heb.3:12) “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.”

The end of the period of judgeship and the beginning of the Theocracy Monarchy shows it during Samuel's ministry.

(Judges 21:25) “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

### **3. God raised Samuel up to train sons of the prophets to be called for ministry to priest nation of Israel.**

We know Samuel established his School of Biblical Theology (SBT) through-out the tribal territory of Benjamin (Gilgal; Jericho; Bethel; and Kirjath-jearim). He lived in Ramah, which was located in the center of it (2 Kings 2).

King Saul had a life experiencing change with some of Samuel's prophets in (1 Sam.10:1-16).

(1 Sam.10:6) "Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man." (Jewish Age)

**4. The curriculum for Samuel's SBT consisted of at least four areas.**

- Music and worship (1 Chron.25; 1 Sam.10:5)
- Word of God and theology (1 Kings 20:35-43)
- Prophetic teaching (1 Sam.19:18-24)
- Preparation of pool for Lord to select a national prophet

The sons of the prophets were a much larger group than one might think (1 Kings 19:1-2, 8- 10, 18) [7000] (1 Kings 18:22; Rom.11:1-6).

**5. Within this group of prophets, God would select a national prophet such as Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 9:1-10).**

The national prophet was the head master of the SBT.

(2 Kings 2:3) "Then the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, 'Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; be still.'"

Sons of the prophets from Jericho said the same thing (2 Kings 2:5; 6:5)

(2 Kings 2:7) "Now 50 men of the sons of prophets went and stood opposite them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan."

(2 Kings 2:15) "Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho opposite him saw him, they said, 'The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.' And they came to meet him and bowed themselves to the ground before him."

**6. Following the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of Divine Discipline to Judah (586BC), there were no prophets to the priest-nation of Israel through-out the inter-biblical period from Malachi to First Advent of Jesus.**

John Baptist was the first prophet to Israel since this period.

The Jews knew about the prophecy of Deut.18:15-18 but didn't know if it referred to John or Jesus. (John 1:19-34/ Isa.40:3; Acts 3:17-26/ 3:24; 7:3, 52).