SAMUEL: A MOUTHPIECE FOR GOD

Text - Selected verses from I Samuel

8/11/10

Intro.

* During a time when God's Word was rarely heard by anyone, Samuel was used by God to be His Mouthpiece (spokesman)

Samuel served as God's voice to the people of Israel in 3 ways:

I. SAMUEL WAS A PROPHET
He spoke for God to men
(He gave a witness & revelation)

A. His message was not always easy (Chapter 3)

B. His message was not always welcomed (8:10-22)

C. His message was not always positive (15:13-28)

II. SAMUEL WAS A PRIEST
He spoke to God for men
(He offered up prayers & sacrifices)

III. SAMUEL WAS A JUDGE
He spoke to men about God
(He upheld Law & Order)

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What would you be without God's Word?

What a horrible predicament to be without the Scripture of Truth.

We would have no absolutes, no certainty of the future, no purpose for life, no direction in life, no comprehensive understanding of God, man or sin, etc.

The timing of Samuel's ministry is significant because he lived during a time of transition. he served God as the last of the judges (Acts 13:20) and anointed the first kings of Israel. He lived in between the O.T. Theocracy and monarchy.

The period of the judges comes to an end and the period of the kings begins.

Samuel is God's man who stood in the gap between these two forms of government.

Samuel is also the first of the O.T. prophets (Acts 3:24) and initiates the "School of the Prophets." (3:19, 21)

NOTE: The rarity of God's revelation in the days of Samuel's youth (3:1)

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Samuel is called a "seer" (I Chron. 9:22), meaning: one who sees; one who receives revelatory visions from God.

A. His message was not always easy (Chapter 3)

Samuel's first message was a great burden to deliver.

Num. 12:6 - God spoke to his prophets in visions and dreams.

Everything a true prophet of God says - must come to pass.

God's requirements for prophets is 100% accuracy!
Death was the penalty for any error.

Two rules for a true prophet:

1) 100% accuracy (Deut. 18:20-22)

2) A message consistent with Scripture (Deut. 13:1-5)

B. His message was not always welcomed (8:10-22)

Israel, by asking for a king, was showing her rejection of God's reign over her (8:7)

Nothing was wrong in Israel's having a king in God's time
(Gen. 49:10; Num. 24:17; Dt. 17:14-20).

This request was premature and worldly (8:20)

C. His message was not always positive (15:13-28)

II. SAMUEL WAS A <u>PRIEST</u>
He spoke to God for men
(He offered up prayers & sacrifices)

Samuel's prayer of deliverance (7:8-9)

God's answer (7:10-11)

Samuel's memorial (7:12-14)

Samuel anoints the first king of Israel (10:1).



Samuel's power with God - I Sam. 12:12-25

NOTE: Samuel viewed a failure to pray as a <u>sin</u> against God!

NOTE: Saul's <u>presumption</u> (13:8-14). Sacrifice was Samuel's job!

III. SAMUEL WAS A <u>JUDGE</u>

He spoke to men about God

(He upheld Law & Order)

Samuel was a judge (7:6).

He preached: "No man can serve two masters" (7:3).

An itinerant judge (7:15-17)

NOTE: Samuel's unblemished testimony as a judge (12:1-4).