

Lesson Nine

I SAMUEL

The Transition from Judges to Kings

Introduction: We now come to another transition. In the book of Judges we saw Israel under the theocracy; i.e., God was the King. However, we watched as Israel constantly turned away from their king and turned to false gods. Compromise and disobedience brought chastisement and deliverance time after time.

Transition- Now, in I Samuel we see the transition from the theocracy and the judges to the monarchy under kings. Eli, under whom Samuel served as a child, was the next to the last judge of Israel (**I Sam 4:18**) and Samuel was the last of the judges. (I Sam 7:6) Here in I Samuel we have the accounts of the first two earthly kings of Israel, Saul and David.

The record- Beginning in I Samuel and continuing on through II Chronicles we have the record of the rise and fall of the Israelite monarchy. The book of I Samuel covers the first period of about 115 years starting with the birth of Samuel and continuing on until the death of Saul.

Authorship- God, of course was the author and Samuel is considered the earthly writer of **chs. 1 - 24 of I Samuel**. (More later on this when we study II Samuel.)

New office- Not only was Samuel used of God to help establish Israel as a nation with an earthly monarch but through him God also established the new office of prophet and the school of the prophets and raised that office to a level equal to that of the priests and kings. In fact, from this time on God used the prophets above the other two. They were given the job and responsibility of fostering and nurturing the spiritual life of all three segments of the Hebrew people- kings, priests, and commoners.

Works of God through Samuel- Through Samuel God not only established the school and the office of the prophets but also instituted reforms to restore the religious and moral life of Israel.

This was done not through the charisma of the man Samuel, this would have died with him, but through an educational system. This system taught the true doctrines of the divine nature which fostered true worship and a return to godly morality; and it also raised the mental state of the nation through reading and writing and produced educated leaders that were able to truly lead an educated nation. Of these could be numbered King David and his staff of leaders, his son Solomon the third king of Israel, as well as, later, such men as Isaiah and others before and after him who gave us the Scriptures.

Old Testament Survey

NOTES

2 worthless Judges after Samuel- Samuel's two sons, Joel and Abiah, were made Judges over Israel but were unfaithful and, therefore, unused as such.

Prophets- There were prophets before Samuel but he was the first to hold the *office* of prophet.