

6/8/80

SAMUEL

Our purpose is to study the man, not the book of 1 Samuel in all of its entirety. My lessons (4 of them) will be followed by lessons on SAUL and DAVID. Samuel was involved with both of these men.

Samuel was both a JUDGE and a PROPHET.

He was the last of the JUDGES and was raised up by the Lord to fill the gap between the JUDGES and the KINGS.

He is mentioned only 3 times in the NT: acts 3:24; 13:20; Heb. 11:32... According to these verses Samuel is remembered,

- 1) for his preaching
- 2) for his faith

In OT references to Samuel outside of 1 Samuel, he is remembered especially as a man of prayer. Cf. Psa. 99:6; Jer. 15:1. Cf. 1 Sam. 7:5, ^{8:6;} 12:23.

This was a dark period in Israel's history because of ⁽¹⁾ internal corruption and ⁽²⁾ outside oppression. Concerning the first we must see (1) a corrupt priesthood and (2) a corrupt king (Saul). As to the second, we have the trouble caused by the Philistines.

Concerning the revelation of God we have an important development in Samuel's day. We have the beginning of the use of the Lord's name, "the Lord of hosts." Cf. 1:3, 11; 4:4; 15:2; 17:45. This was a title used to emphasize the sovereignty of God,
not only over the ~~universe~~
not only over angels
and not only over Israel,
but also over all nations,

- and --as K + D bring out (pp. 19-21) -- so that Israel would know (and that we would know) that the sovereignty of God over His people and concerning His purposes was not eclipsed in any way by the fact that Israel had a King.

See the meaning of their request for a King as indicated by the Lord in 1 Sam. 8:7.

K + D speak of God's sovereignty as "the invisible sovereignty of God." There were times when it became visible, but it is interesting because it indicates that it was there even when it could not be seen.

In these chapters in 1 Samuel which deal with Samuel we see

- 1) His birth and childhood
- 2) His relationship with God
- 3) His relationship with Eli, the high priest.
- 4) His relationship with the people of Israel.
- 5) His relationship with Saul.
- 6) His relationship with David.