

UNLIKELY HEROES #6

SAMUEL: A CHILD WHO HEARD GOD

“Unlikely heroes are those whose faith causes them to hear and see things that others around them cannot discern.

1 Samuel 2:18–21 (KJV 1900)

18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.

21 And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

1 Samuel 3:19–21 (KJV 1900)

19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

BIO FOR SAMUEL:

1. Parents: His father was Elkanah and his mother was Hanah.
2. Spouse: Unknown
3. Year Born: 1154 BC
4. Offspring: Joel & Abijah
5. Nationality: Israelite of the tribe of Levi (1 Chronicles 6:18-48)
6. Occupation: Judge, priest & prophet of Israel
7. Scriptural Setting: 1 Samuel 1-25

NOTABLE EVENTS IN HIS LIFE:

1. 1 Samuel 1:19-20 – Samuel is born in Ramah.
2. 1 Samuel 1:26-28 – He is dedicated to God and the service of the Tabernacle.
3. 1 Samuel 2:3-14 – God speaks to Samuel as a child.
4. 1 Samuel 7:3-13 – He leads Israel in revival and victory over the Philistines.
5. 1 Samuel 10:1 – He anoints Saul to be king over Israel
6. 1 Samuel 15:13-29 – He confronts Saul's disobedience regarding the Amalekites.
7. 1 Samuel 16:1-13 – He anoints David to be king over Israel
8. 1 Samuel 7:15-17 & 25:1 – He dies after judging Israel for most of his adult life.

INTERESTING FACTS:

1. His mother had been barren and his birth was answered prayer.
2. His name means “asked of God” (1 Samuel 1:20).
3. He was dedicated to the work of God from childhood (1 Samuel 1:28).
4. He is the only man apart from Jesus to serve as Israel's judge, prophet & priest.
5. He anointed both Saul and David to be king over Israel.

NOTABLE QUOTES:

“Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” – 1 Samuel 15:22-23

NOTABLE PROPHETIC AND NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES:

Psalm 99:6 - Moses and Aaron among his priests, And Samuel among them that call upon his name; They called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

God knew Samuel as an intercessor.

Jeremiah 15:1 - Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Acts 3:24 - Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

Hebrews 11:32 - And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Samuel; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

TAKE HOME STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think Samuel was able to maintain a vibrant relationship with God being raised in a morally corrupts and spiritually passive environment?
2. What significance to see in the fact that Samuel was the only person in scripture apart from Jesus to be Israel's judge, prophet and high priest? How well did he operate in those roles?
3. Read 1 Samuel 3:15-18 & 1 Samuel 15:16-23. Samuel had to deliver many difficult messages. What kind of character traits in order to effectively deliver these messages?
4. Read 1 Samuel 12:20-23. In light of the fact that Israel had just rejected Samuel from being there judge, what does this passage tell you about his love for Israel and his character?
5. Why do you think God chose to speak to Samuel when there was no frequent revelation of God in Israel during that those days?
6. Why do you think that Samuel grieved over the rejection of Saul? (1 Samuel 15:10-11 & 1 Samuel 16:1)
7. Why do you think that Samuel's sons fell into the same trap as those of Eli? (1 Samuel 8:1-5)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
