

I Samuel 3

Chapter 8: Samuel is old. Can't judge Israel anymore. Picks his sons to work with him. They do not walk with the Lord. Dishonest, take bribes. Samuel had followed since his very early youth; his sons probably has good education and spiritual upbringing.

Elders come to Samuel and say that his sons are dishonest and they want a king. Prophesied in Deut 17:14. Want to be just like the nations.

Samuel goes to the LORD and He tells him to give them what they want. People are rebelling against Him and not Samuel. Always in rebellion. God led them out of Egypt and they have always rebelled. Now you see how they are. They were not happy even though they had an anointed prophet who spoke with God to judge and rule over them. The people were separated from the other nations but they wanted to be *like* them. They wanted ceremonial king with royal splendor and armies rather than an anointed prophet. They didn't even ask for a wise one.

God tells Samuel to warn them what the king will do. Take your sons for the army and for his service. Take the best land and crops. Take your flocks. You will make his weapons.

And when you cry out that day, the LORD will not hear you.

The people say they want a king like the nations have. They reject God's word through Samuel. They go from asking for a king to demanding one. God says to Samuel, give them a king.

Chapter 9: Saul from Tribe of Benjamin. Handsome, tall, strong. Looks like a king.

Saul's father sends him to look for missing donkeys. Can't find them. Servant tells Saul that there is a seer they can talk to.

God tells Samuel that a man from Benjamin will come. He is to be commander over Israel and save the People from the Philistines. God still caring for His people. God shows Samuel who Saul is. Invites him to eat of the sacrifice. Saul is still very humble at this point. Even speaks humbly of his family and tribe.

Samuel tells Saul that he will tell him God's word.

Chapter 10: Samuel anoints Saul with oil. Sealed with the Spirit. God has chosen him over Israel. First time someone other than priests had been anointed with oil. Shows it is a divine institution. God will bless the nation through civil government. King is consecrated like the priests were.

Gives him 3 signs to confirm the authority that Samuel told him he had. Rachel's tomb-Benjamin's mother. Saul confronts his mortality. Meets people worshipping. Meets prophets and Saul prophesies. Spirit falls on Saul and he is changed and prophesies. Now has a higher calling.

Samuel calls the people together and announces that they have rejected God Who had delivered them. You want a king over you instead. There is no one like Saul.

People shout "long live the king!"

Chapter 11: Saul wins battle over Amorites threatening the tribes in the east. People are excited about him and want to put to death those that opposed him.

Saul proclaimed king. Seems to be great leader.

Chapter 12 : Samuel tells the people he has given them a king just like they wanted. Now he is old. Has served since childhood. Has always been honest and good.

Recounts how the LORD delivered the people from Egypt, defeated their enemies. Now the people wanted a king and not the LORD over them. God is the witness of all this.

Samuel points out that the LORD has been their King and commander and general. But He also doesn't punish them for wanting a king over Him but appointed a king that they wanted. So they should obey the LORD and not rebel. Even though they have a king, that will not save them from judgment if they disobey.

Samuel tells the people that thunder and rain will come from the LORD. Time of the wheat harvest – does not rain then.

People were afraid. Ask Samuel to pray for them. They have added to their sins by asking for a king.

The LORD will not forsake His people for His Name's sake. He had made them His people.

Fear the LORD and follow Him or they and their king will be swept away. Samuel is always a watchman for the people.