

By Faith: Samuel
Sermon 43 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 11:32-34

Intro:

We can number Samuel among the greatest heroes of the faith.

Jeremiah 15:1 -- Then the LORD said to me, “*Even* if Moses and **Samuel** stood before Me, My mind *would not be* favorable toward this people. Cast *them* out of My sight, and let them go forth.

- Samuel is best known as A PROPHET – and he was.
- Samuel was also a PRIEST – not the High Priest by birth and office – but a priest of God – offering sacrifices to the Lord.
- Samuel was also a ruler – not a king – but a judge – and the last judge of Israel – and the one who anointed Saul as the first king, and shortly thereafter – anointed David.

A prophet, priest and ruler – and we can see him as a type of Christ who would be the great Prophet – Priest – and King.

1 Sam. 2:26 -- And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.
Luke 2:52 – And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

I. His Unusual Birth

His mother Hannah was barren – it grieved her soul.

In bitterness of soul – she went to the tabernacle to pray for a child.

1:11 – Her vow

In an age of great wickedness – Eli suspected the worst.

1:17 – More than just a benediction -- A prophetic word

1:20 – Samuel = “Heard by God”.

II. His Unusual Childhood

True to her word – when he was weaned – Hannah took little Samuel to the Tabernacle – where he became like an adopted son to Eli – although she came to visit him often.

3:1-10 -- He was ministering – but did not yet personally know the Lord.

3:19-20 – He became well-known and respected.

This was all at the hand and in the plan of God.

III. His Unusual Ministry after his Death

Samuel anointed Saul as King – but after great military success in his first 2 years – Saul proved what kind of man he really was.

- A man who did not know the Lord.
- A man who only cared about power.
- A man who was willing to do anything to keep that power.

15:9-11 -- God's accommodating language to us "repent/relent".

It wasn't a mistake to appoint Saul as King.

God isn't saying, "I shouldn't have done that."

Saul was given to Israel as a punishment to them!

KEY VERSE – 15:22-23 -- Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.

Saul and the Witch of Endor -- Chapter 28

Right to the end, Saul wasn't repentant.

He wasn't seeking the Lord to repent.

He was merely trying to stay in power.

He was a man who tried to use God for his own purposes, and when that failed – he turned to a witch.

Three theories on the appearance of Samuel.

- 1) This was actually Samuel appearing from the dead.
- 2) This was a demon impersonating Samuel
- 3) This was a hoax committed by the woman