

I SAM 1:1-20

2:39-52 (1). "The First Samuel-Sermon".

Intro:- (1). "Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime; and departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time." So said the poet (approx). And without questioning theology involved.. "What you think of Sir W. Churchill?" Bull-dog tenacity! "What think of A. Lincoln?" Home-spun wisdom..Emancipator Or that P.M. of Britain..confronting Queen Vic.."I am queen of England" "I am people of England"..Bold, steadfast Martin Luther.."Here I stand. I can do none other. God help me". Faith, conviction. Paul..Master missionary.. "I have fought a good fight..fin. course..kept faith". Our Lord once asked "Whom say ye that I am? What think ye of Christ?" Eternity hangs on answer! GOD..SAVIOUR. (2) Right now..take look at another man whose life not been emphasized enough..although two Bible books carry his name. God grant we might learn well from him..deeds. Per.already guessed the name..SAMUEL! I and II Samuel bear his name..although he is not even mentioned in II. The two books tell about Samuel and the two men he anointed as kings of all Israel..Saul and David. LIFE & WORK OF S. What do you know about Samuel? Story of little boy in Temple..and God calling to him. Any more? Let's look!

I. Think best see life by counting 12 statements..Meaning.

(a). No. 1. evident..He was born! Most of us start thus. But S. born out of unhappy situation..and in ans. to earnest prayer. Elkanah had 2 wives. (W. Murray says he was in trouble right there..No man can serve 2 masters!) Hannah barren..and Peninah scoffed. But Hannah prayed.. and we read this: I Sam.1:19 ²⁵Start here to learn..Life is natural process..BUT ALSO GIFT OF GOD. "And the Lord" LEARN IT! Every hour..breath..heart-beat. GOD GAVE. What will you do with it? Give it back for His use????

(b). For brevity's sake..let me read 2, 3, 5, 6 together.. 2:11, 18, 21, 26, 3:6. Note that in each case called "child". Yet two things.."ministered" "grew". Think of this! A child can begin serve God in some way. Your child Early teach to PRAY..TITHE a dime..Worship..witness... c/f David..little Bibles. And "grew"..How carefully ~~we~~ make sure of Phys. growth..mental develop..And SPIRITUAL? Let me say it here..BIBLE SCHOOL MORE IMP. THAN KNOW.

(c). Time went on..as it has habit of doing..3:1b-4. CALLED. (7). c/f vs. 7. I mark this as conversion of Samuel. Note diff. in vs. 9-10 No "Lord" yet..but that night he met God..personally..vocally..talked, heard.. HAVE YOU? And here is No. 8. vs. 15-16. Opened doors..

c/f New
way
and by
God

Of house of God..That's good thing..GO INTO GOD'S HOUSE!
And opened doors of heart and life to his new-found Lord.
And Eli called him..not "child" but "SON..MY SON". Adopted.
Into family of God. How glorious! - *You? - Your children?*
(d). Then 9 and 10 go together..3:19-4:1a S. grew to be a
prophet of God..receiving rev. of God through God's Word..and
ready to pass it on by own God-guided word. And cannot
God do it again? God open our ears to hear..lips to
speak His Word in effective, Spirit-empowered witness for Him!
DO IT. Let God take over..~~and~~ forget consequences. NEED TODAY
(e). Next three chapters deal with Eli..his sons..troubles that
Israel got into through foolish SUPERSTITION re Ark..Samuel
not in evidence yet..growing, learning, maturing..past teens
into 20's. Let me skip 11 for moment..look at 12..the summary
of his life..7:15-17. (8:1) begins old age ministry in detail)
But middle life? Beautiful! UNWAVERING SERVICE vs.15..
THOROUGH SERVICE vs. 16..HOME SERVICE..vs.17. "There" was his
house..family.."There" he judged..as true father must.."There"
he had family altar. GOD GIVE US GODLY HOMES AS WELL AS OUTREACH

II. Now let's go back and look at one skipped..No 12.

(a). For emphasis on it..and as climax of Samuel's early min.
Here..in 7:3 is beginning of first Samuel-Sermon recorded.
Relevant mess. ge..that we ought heed most carefully.
First:- Recall again setting. Israel been long in trouble..
Iniquity invaded very priesthood..Apostasy..sex perversions..
morality gone..Then defeat in battle. And superstitiously
carried Ark of God into battle..only to have Phil. beat again
and capture Ark. Finally it was returned by them bec. it
troubled them..gods..Came to Bethshemesh..and there men of Isra
into trouble bec. faithless curiosity drove to look into the
sacred Ark..instead of believing what God had said. So came
to Kirjathjearim..for 20 long years. 7:2 Lamentable state!
True religion had lapsed..dull round set in..evil undealt with
Let me suggest that today we have so much of this. Deadness.
(b). THEN CAME SAMUEL..I think to climax of life..certainly *need for return*
of early ministry..young man..in 20's, early thirties...
AND FULFILLED FOUR VITAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION OF PEOPLE
Look at them:-

1. First:- 7:3-4. Watch great words.."Return"..that means
some back-tracking..coming back from where gone astray..
Need this? Any backsliding in heart..action? "Put away"..
that means separation from something..pushing it away from life
Any needed? What? What God say RIGHT NOW? That's it! A stran
god..strange, not in God's plans..Worshipped..Gold? Fame? Flea
"prepare" Act of will..love-action..a "want" in heart. Desire
to please God. Do you have this? Not easy. Delib. turning of
heart-longing to serve, obey, follow, please God! ASK FOR IT.

Israel did it. Will we also? Or content with remote God..glee of unsaved men and God-hating demons?

2. Second:- After that ecological clean-up of spiritual pollution...PRAYER. Right order. vs.5, 9b..United prayer.."gathered"..with man of God to lead. That's a good prayer meeting! Missed any lately? Why? A pouring out of water..c/f II Sam. 14:14..picture of life poured out..DEATH. These people DIED in prayer. with fasting. Wanting old earth-life finished with. And with it..deep, poured-out confession.."We have sinned Most diff. words in human language..c/f "Father, I have sinned." Or does your heart say.."I'm alright..good..." God help us all..clean out wrong things...and open lives to God's searching in prayer, confession.."Get right with God".

3. Then the third:- And NOT until then..vs.9a, 10a. OFFERING. Offered "wholly".."burnt" offering..irrevocable Too often men "offer" to pay God off..c/f tighes..Or to placate H.S..so not so convicting..Buy Him off. NEVER. Separation from evil..Then prayer conversation..THEN the offering. Don't try buy God off..make \$100.00 offering on Sunday..live like devil..or worse..rest of week. God might well say as did to Simon.."Thy money perish with thee". THERE IS AN OFFERING THAT PLEASES GOD..when life right..Love-offering..with only regret it is not more. Let's say it again..Rom. 12:1-2 "Take my life...."

Conclus:- There came a fourth matter...Phil. attacked this cleansed, praying, giving people...and flopped! VICTORY! 10b. OUR THUNDERING, MIGHTY GOD WAS THERE..IS HERE! With all His power..to exert it on behalf of His obedient, loving children. Want THAT in life? POWER And result..vs. 12. THANKSGIVING...WITNESS..TESTIMONY.. "The Stone of Help"..our Rock of Ages..Our Lord Jesus! 2. The thankful heart is absolutely vital. The critical soul is a miserable soul..and misery to all around. God lift us up! It can be ours today. Cleansed...Prayerful... Gladly giving life to Saviour..and sure to be THANKFUL. 3. Where do we live? Let Samuel's sermon speak NOW..to all of us..ME..YOU.."Get right with God"..come to Him in lowly, confessing prayer..Give self to Him afresh. Will you? Should I, or not? And you?

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*come again!
Samuel!*