

Lesson 28 The Book of 1 Samuel Review: Part One

Originally the Books of 1 and 2 Samuel were written as one book with one coherent story. They belong to a genre called narrative. A biblical narrative is a purposeful story retelling the historical events of the past that are intended to give meaning and direction to a given people in the present. 1 and 2 Samuel are two of many books in the Bible which relate the history of Israel. The history of Israel fits into "God's Big Story" as part of His redemptive plan. From the nation of Israel comes God's chosen Savior, and the only hope for redemption, Jesus Christ.

The nation of Israel began with a call to Abraham by God and a promise that he would make Abraham into a great nation. God also promised Abraham that his seed would inherit the land of Canaan. The promise was passed down through Abraham's son, Isaac, and then to his grandson, Jacob. Jacob's family, due to a famine in the land, was sent to Egypt. In Egypt they multiplied and grew to over 1 million people. At this point they were still slaves to Pharaoh and had yet to receive the land that God had promised them.

In the Book of Exodus we read about God's dramatic delivery of His people from slavery. Moses led them out of Egypt into the wilderness. Eventually they were to come to the land of Canaan which God had promised to give them. On the way they stopped at Mt Sinai to worship the Lord and there God also made a covenant with them. God gave them His law which they were expected to obey.

1. At Mt. Sinai the Israelites promised to obey the covenant and keep God's law that was given them through Moses. According to Exodus 24:3-7 what did the Israelites promise to do? Part of the law that they promised to keep can be found in Exodus 20:3-6. What were they commanded to do in those verses and according to Exodus 32:1-10 how did they respond to those commands?

Despite the continued disobedience of the Israelites, God remained faithful to his promises and commitment to lead the people to the Promised Land. Again the Israelites disobeyed and due to their rebellion, they refused to enter the land. As a result they would spend the next 40 years wandering in the wilderness. After those 40 years, Moses died and God raised up Joshua to lead the people into the Promised land where they conquer one Canaanite tribe after another. Under Joshua's godly leadership the people were generally speaking faithful and obedient to God and His word.

2. In Joshua chapters 23 and 24, Joshua gathered the nation and the leaders together and informed them that he is about to die. According to Joshua 23:12-13, and 15-16 what does he warn them against and what does he say would be the consequences? In 23:14 how did Joshua encourage them to obey?

Application: How does the Lord encourage us to obey Him in His Word today?

3. According to Judges 2:6-15 how did the next generation after the death of Joshua respond to Joshua's warning and what were the ensuing consequences?

4. Whenever the oppression became unbearable for the Israelites, the people would cry out to God and He would send a judge to lead and deliver them. Things would go well for awhile and then the cycle would be repeated. The cycle followed a pattern of rebellion, repentance and deliverance and lasted for over 350 years. How does Judges 17:6 and 21:25 describe the moral and political climate in Israel? What can you learn of the religious climate in the land of Israel from 1 Samuel 2:12-17 and 3:1?

Application: How can you apply the situation described in Judges 21:25 to mankind without Christ and in particular to our own culture today? How does the rule of Christ in a Christian's life make a difference in the moral and spiritual climate of his or her life?

All of this chaos and unfaithfulness to God revealed Israel's need for wise, faithful leaders. The Books of 1 and 2 Samuel provide an answer to that need and point us to the ultimate ruler and King of God's own choosing: Jesus Christ.

