

Bible Overview 9 LONGING FOR A KING

As we saw at the end of Judges, the writer (17:6,18:1,19:1, 21:25) makes it clear that there is a need for a king.

Samuel:

The greatest judge of all was Samuel – chapters 1-7 portray the birth and rise of Samuel in contrast with the corrupt priesthood of Eli and his sons.

Hannah (Samuel's mother) prays to the Lord for a son 1 Samuel 2:1-10

- What does that remind you of?
- What is strange about v10?

1 Sam 2:35 – promise of a faithful priest who will minister before the Lord's 'Christ' forever. See Hebrews 6:20

"The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. And Samuel's word came to all Israel" (1 Sam 3:21-4:1)

- Note how God appears to Samuel
- Samuel's word is God's word, God's word comes to Israel through Samuel
- Contrast between Samuel and Eli, his sons and the nation see 3:11-13

Eli's sons are guilty but so too was Eli

"There was a "severe crisis in Israel, which I have been describing as a crisis of leadership. In response to that crisis what did God do? Did he set up a man with leadership gifts..a new organisational structure...no. He sent his word and he provided for his word to come to all Israel...God's response to Israel's leadership crisis was the provision of his word" (1 Samuel John Woodhouse p83)

Chapter 4 – Dark days in Israel:

- Israel defeated in battle against the Philistines
- The ark was captured (v11)
- Eli's sons die (v11) and so too does Eli (v18)
- The glory departs from Israel

Note: 'Ichabod' = 'no glory' 'kabod' = glory, and/or heavy.

The glory of God has the idea of the heaviness, the weightiness of God.

Chapters 5-6: God defeats the Philistines by himself.

5:7,11 – God's presence was 'heavy' upon the Philistines = same word 'kabod'

Group Discussion: Chapter 8

V1-3 Why might those verses surprise us given the opening chapters of 1 Samuel?

V 4-5 What is ironic about the request the elders make and the reason they give for it?

What is the reason they give for wanting a king (v5, 20)? What is so terrible about that? (see Exodus 19:5-6, Exodus 14:13-14 and also 1 Sam 5-6)

Why is God displeased about their request for a king? (v7-8)

V10-18 What word is pre-eminent in these verses?

Note v18 – compare with Judges 3:9,15

V22 What do make of God's decision to give them a king? Was it an act of judgment or mercy? See Romans 1:24,26,28

"Your will be done" – matters who is saying it!

Compare the king of v10-18 with Mark 10:45

Saul Made King: 1 Samuel 9-10

9:2 – Saul 'an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites'

This is the kind of king the people want, like the kings of other nations

But

"Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" 1 Sam 16:7

10:1 – Samuel 'anoints' Saul as king

Saul's failures as King – 1 Sam 13 & 1 Sam 15

Disobeys Samuel – his kingdom will not endure – God will appoint another king 13:13-14

Disobeys the Lord's commands – 15:24, 28

"Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the prophets he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" Luke 24:26-7

"This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day..." Luke 24:46

Where is this verse found in the Old Testament?

David Is Anointed King : 1 Sam 16

Nb Saul remains on the throne until 1 Sam 31!

1 Sam 16:13 – David anointed as King – what happens?

1 Sam 17 David and Goliath

If you were teaching this story to Sunday Club – how would you apply it?

Who would you encourage the children to relate to in the story?

There are two ways to read the Bible. The one way to read the Bible is that it's basically about you: what you have to do in order to be right with God, in which case you'll never have a sure and certain hope, because you'll always know you're not quite living up. You'll never be sure about that future. Or you can read it as all about Jesus. Every single thing is not about what you must do in order to make yourself right with God, but what he has done to make you absolutely right with God. And Jesus Christ is saying, "Unless you can read the Bible right, unless you can understand salvation by grace, you'll never have a sure and certain hope. But once you understand it's all about me, Jesus Christ, then you can know that you have peace. You can know that you have this future guaranteed, and you can face anything." Tim Keller

- What do you think of the above quotation?
- What difference does it make to read the Bible as being primarily about you or as primarily about Jesus?
- What's the difference between Jesus being primarily our Saviour or being primarily our example/teacher?

NB Next Bible Overview: Wed 14th Jan