

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
I SAMUEL

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How Nations and Ministries Emerge

- No set plan but God guides
- Mistakes are made but God guides
- Leadership that maintains and leadership that transitions

Samuel as model of pivotal transitional leadership

- Anointed for such a role
- Lifetime/long-term commitment
- Record of credibility and consistency
- Personal costs:
 - Paul---All-consuming and risk to health
 - Harriet Tubman ---Exposure to danger
 - Nelson Mandela---Long-term suffering in what is considered prime of life
 - M.L. King, Jr.---Personal prosperity
 - Samuel---Relationship and family costs

The Book of I Samuel

Authorship:

- Definitely not Samuel (Samuel's death and absence from II Samuel)
- Probably the same authors who compiled history from the days of Joshua to II Kings

Structure:

- Probably started as one long text. Broken into two books around fifteenth century
 - I Samuel 1: 1-7:17, Samuel and the Crisis in Israel
 - Samuel and the Word of the Lord, the birth of Samuel, the song of Hannah, Corruption of the house of Eli, call of Samuel, Philistine crisis and capture of the Ark of Covenant, the Ark with the Philistines, return of the Ark, Samuel as Judge of Israel.
 - I Samuel 8: 1-15: 35, The Kingship of Saul
 - Demand and Warning, Saul become king, anointing of Saul, Saul delivers Jabesh-Gilead, Samuel's address to Israel, exploits and rejection of Saul.
 - I Samuel 16: 1-31: 13, The Rise of David and the Decline of Saul
 - Anointing of David, David introduced to Saul's court, David defeats Goliath, Saul's Jealousy at David's success, Saul's threat to David's life, the friendship of Jonathan and David, David as a fugitive, David and Ahimelech at Nob, David plays the mad man, the entourage of David, Saul massacres the priests at Nob, narrow escapes from Saul, David spares Saul's life, Abigail saved David from bloodguilt, David spares Saul's life a second time, David in the service of the Philistines, Saul and the ghost of Samuel, David dismissed from the battle with Saul, David and the Amalekite raid on Ziklag, the battle of Gilboa and the death of Saul.

Other Lessons from I Samuel

Even in times when visions are rare, God still speaks
Even old and discredited priests like Eli can still be used to interpret God's word
Jealousy and insecurity can lead to our undoing
God will always raise up friends for us in unexpected places, even in the very presence
and face of our adversaries.
Being a person after God's own heart doesn't mean perfection
Never underestimate royalty and greatness we have in our family and households
We can't judge books by covers
Never try to fight in someone else's armor
Everyone's life goes through down seasons
Our greatness is seen in how we act when we have opportunities for revenge