

OT-OV

Lesson 82

1. Last week we continued our study of the Book of 1st Samuel. I am going to review some of that learned and then we will pick up with new material on page three.

2. First Samuel Chapters 1-24 probably were written by Samuel and Chapters 25-31 were most likely written by Nathan. The book was written around 1020 to 950 B.C.

3. The Book of 1st Samuel is a story of Israel's rejection of God, His prophet and his Theocratic system and their selection of a King with its dire consequences.

4. The Doctrine of Samuel.

4.1 Samuel was one of the greatest leaders of Israel. (2Ch 35:18; Psa 99:6; Jer 15:1; Acts 3:24; and Heb 11:32).

4.2 Samuel came to Israel in one of her darkest hours. The Philistines, who for a long time had menaced the Israelites, were threatening to engulf them.

4.3 A Jewish lady in distress by the name of Hannah is used of the Lord to deliver Israel. Her distress relates to her barren condition so she beseeches the Lord, He gave her a child, she names him Samuel and then gives him to Eli the High Priest for training. 1Sa 1:21-22

4.4 This son became Samuel the king maker, the last of the judges, and the first of the major prophets after Moses.

4.5 From early childhood he ministered in the tabernacle as a protege of the old priest Eli. 1Sa 2:18

4.6 It was a time of spiritual decline in the nation: "word from the Lord was rare in those days." (1Sa 3:1)

4.7 But the Bible says that "the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the Word of the Lord." And the word of Samuel came to all Israel." (1Sa 3:21b-4:1a)

4.8 The theocracy worked as God would have it, for Israel was the theocratic ideal; only God was king and His will was communicated to the people through the prophets and priests. Exo 28:30

4.9 When Israel misused the ark of God by taking it into battle for protection, God showed His displeasure by delivering them and the ark over to the Philistines.

4.10 Samuel's mentor Eli proved too old to endure the shock of this tragic news. The capture of the ark meant that God had forsaken Shiloh (Psa 78:60-61; Jer 7:12-14; and 26:6-9), and Samuel was left without a place to minister.

4.11 He returned to Ramah his home, where he built an altar and judged Israel from there, making a regular yearly circuit of towns near Ramah, a city some eight miles north of Jerusalem. (1Sa 7:15-17)

4.12 Samuel's task was the reviving of true worship in Israel. He besought the people to put away the images of the Canaanite deities Baal and Ashtoreth (Ashtarte) and to serve only the Lord.

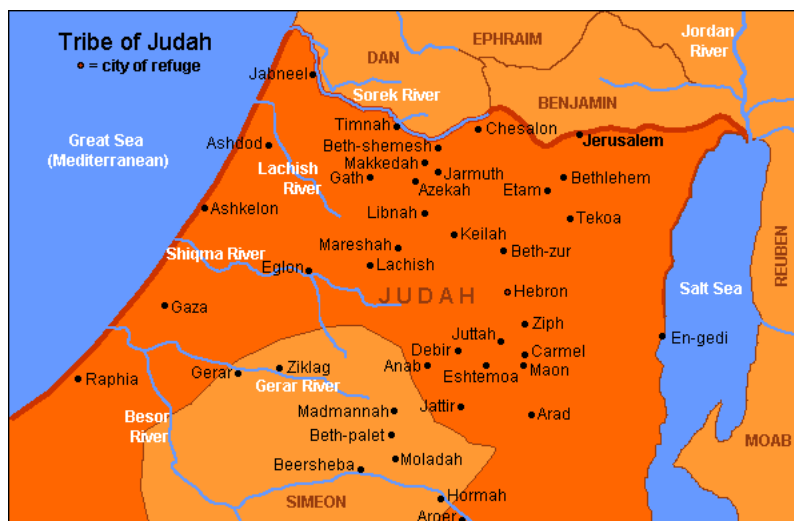
4.13 At a general convocation at Mizpeh, one of the circuit towns, Samuel preached and prayed for the people. (1Sa 7:17)

4.14 This resulted in a spirit of repentance, renewed trust in the Lord, and consequent victory over the Philistines at a place called Ebenezer, "the stone of help," for the people said, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." (1Sa 7:9-12)

4.15 After years of faithful administration of the law and giving of the word of the Lord, Samuel failed in the same way Eli had failed.

4.16 His sons "walked not in his ways," but took bribes and perverted judgment. 1Sa 8:3

4.17 God forced the Philistines to abandon the ark, it nevertheless remained for 20 years in Abinadab's house at Kirjathjearim.



4.18 With no possible successor to Samuel and with no central shrine for worship, the Israelites found themselves increasingly at the mercy of the Philistines.

4.19 Feeling their need for strong leadership and copying the nations about them, they clamored for a king.

4.20 Moses had warned them of the pitfall of having a king (Deu 17:14), for it went against the theocratic ideal that only the Lord should lead. (1Sa 8:7)

4.21 However, under pressure of the times the people forced a reluctant Samuel to find a king.

4.21.1 Before privately anointing Saul first in Ramah (1Sa 9:1-10:6), Samuel preached a sermon of warning; but it fell on deaf ears. (1Sa 8:9-22)

4.22 Saul proved that he had charismatic gifts for leadership when he responded to the plight of the people of Jabesh-gilead.

4.23 Saul was an attractive man in appearance in his humility and in courage.

4.24 Samuel had the Lord's leading in choosing this man. (1Sa 9:17)

4.25 Samuel therefore called the people of Mizpeh again and publicly announced the anointing. (1Sa 10:17-24).

4.26 A formal coronation service was held at Gilgal.

4.27 The long sermon of 1st Samuel chapter 12 seems to be proof that in all this Samuel still had misgivings.

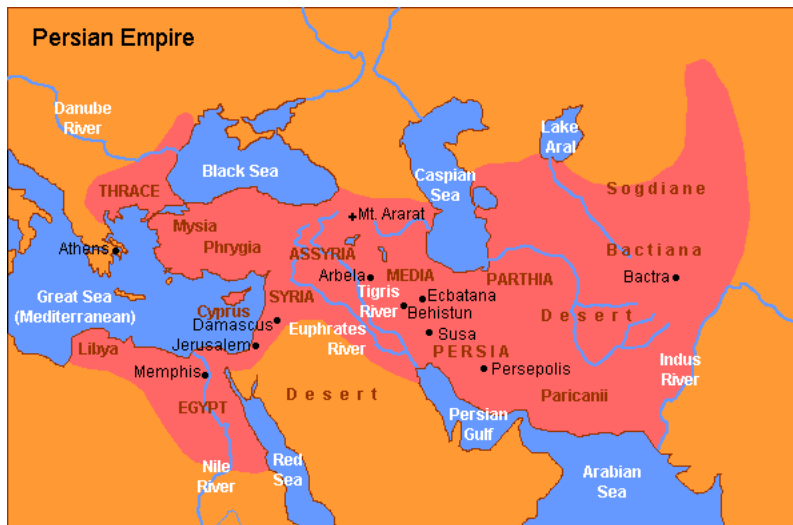
4.28 Here he testifies of his own integrity, and again reproves the people for wanting a king. His moving conclusion is, "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." (1Sa 12:23)

4.29 Saul usurped the function of the priesthood (1Sa 13:4-15), and in the holy war against the Amalekites he violated the Lord's instructions concerning King Agag (1Sa 15:8-35) and consequently was consigned to utter destruction.

4.29.1 Notice the far reaching effect on Israel of Saul's failure to eradicate the Agagites. To wit: Haman's plot to destroy the Jews during the reign of Ahasuerus a Persian king:

Est 3:1 After these things did king Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes 486-465 B.C.) promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

Est 3:10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.



Est 8:3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews ...

Est 8:5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:

Est 9:24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;

4.30 Samuel therefore announced that the Lord had rejected Saul from being king. (1Sa 15:26-28)

1Sa 15:26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

1Sa 15:27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

1Sa 15:28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

4.31 An example of Samuel's great stature among the people at this time is seen in 1Sa 16:4 where the elders of Bethlehem trembled at his presence for fear they had displeased him.

1Sa 16:4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

4.32 The occasion was to anoint David, the youngest of Jesse's eight sons, to succeed Saul. This was the last of Samuel's recorded official acts.

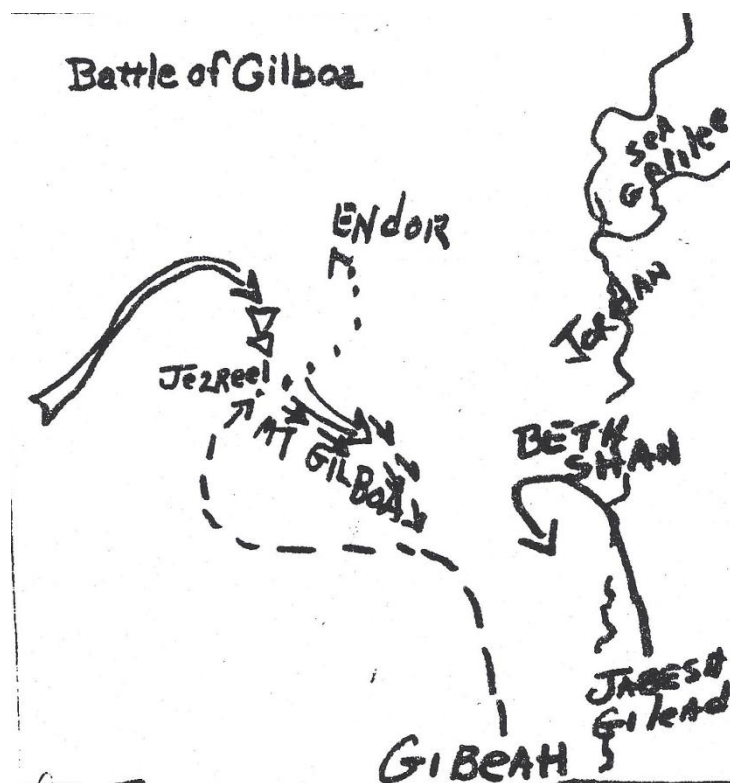
4.33 The last glimpse of him is at Ramah in "Naioth," the huts of a primitive abbey or monastery. (1Sa 19:18,)

1Sa 19:18 When David had fled and made his escape, he went to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to Naioth and stayed there.

4.34 A single verse (1Sa 25:1) tells of Samuel's death and burial in Ramah.

1Sa 25:1 Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Maon.

4.35 Samuel's voice is heard again in a posthumous appearance before the witch of Endor (1Sa 28:15).



1Sa 28:15 Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" "I am in great distress," Saul said. "The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has turned away from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do."

1Sa 28:16 Samuel said, "Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has turned away from you and become your enemy?"

1Sa 28:17 The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors-- to David.

1Sa 28:18 Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the LORD has done this to you today.

1Sa 28:19 The LORD will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also hand over the army of Israel to the Philistines."

4.36 In reply to Saul's request for help against the Philistines, Samuel asks why he who would not listen to him in life should disturb him in death. The last words of Samuel predict Saul's defeat and reassert David's accession to the throne.

5. Now let's see what we can learn from the Book of 2nd Samuel; it was written at least in part by Nathan and an unknown writer around 1020-950 B.C. Some think Abiathar %o may have been one of the contributing authors.

6. The Book is a story of David and his Kingdom, a scenario replete with successes and failures, triumphs and defeats. Like first Samuel where we found a study of Samuel and Saul was the best way to review the Book, I think a study of David will best suit our overview.

6.1 David was the second king of Israel and the founder of the united monarchy (1000-960 B.C.).



6.1.1 He more than likely began his reign of the tribe of Judah and parts of several tribes of the south in 1000 B.C. from where he fought the 7 plus year civil war and then in 993 B.C., after a negotiated victory over Abner and Ishbosheth, he began to rule over the united Kingdom.

End Lesson