

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
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The Book of First Samuel - Lesson 5

"The Growth of Samuel"

&

"The Doom of Eli's Family"

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The first mention of Samuel is in 1 Samuel 1:20, where we see also the name of his mother, Hannah. The next time his name comes up, he ministered as a child. (1 Samuel 2:18) This little boy was born miraculously as a gift of God to his parents. 1 Samuel 2:18-21, ***18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. 19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home. 21 And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters.*** (She asked for one, and God gave her six. *And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.* 1 Samuel 2:26 *And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.*

We are going to discuss the youth of Samuel in this Bible lesson. We have learned about the wickedness of Eli and his sons, now the scripture starts out with the word "***But***" to signify that this is different from what we have discussed before. Samuel was a gift from God to his mother Hannah. She raised him and trained him to live a godly life, instilling in him the virtues of such a life. He grew up watching the wickedness of Eli and his sons, and yet that did not shake him from his righteous convictions because God protected him from all that evil. Samuel's life should be an admonition to us, that though we live in the world, we do not have to be a part of the world. God will protect us if we so desire.

Jesus prayed in John 17:15 ***I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world...*** Jesus did not pray for us to become monks living in some mountain so that we would never have contact with the world. He said, ***I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, BUT that thou shouldest keep them from the evil...*** It is possible to walk right through this world, right through this life, stay on that narrow road, and not turn to the right hand or to the left hand.

The Bible says of the Lord Jesus Christ, He was... ***in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*** (Hebrews 4:15b).

Just a quick side note: If you ever ponder the reason we allow our children to become involved in church activities at such a young age, look at

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the life of Samuel. The Bible says in verse 18, ***But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child...*** Reading ahead into chapter 3, Samuel didn't even know the LORD... till chapter 3:3-11.

Children start at an early age being influenced to do wrong through TV, videos, YouTube, rap music, gangs, and drugs. Why not influence them to do right through singing hymns, doing Bible skits, and passing out gospel tracts? The question you must ask yourself when raising your child is, "What direction do I want them to go when they are older?" Proverbs 22:6 ***Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.***

Ask yourself how you are supposed to train your child. If you were asked to train someone to drive a car, you would show them everything about that automobile

You would warn them about the dangers of operating a motor vehicle. You would give them a book to study about the laws of operating that car. You would do all that you could to make sure they understood how to drive before you would let them get behind the wheel of a 2000 lb. hunk of iron and plastic that moves.

One thing that God instills in each individual at birth is a conscience. (John 1:9) We know that something is wrong even when no one has taught us. Look at what Adam and Eve did after they disobeyed Gods command. (Genesis 3:8) They tried to hide. A child will naturally desire to do wrong; they will do their best to see if they can get away with something without being reprimanded. We need to teach our children that God is watching everything and is everywhere. A good place you can reinforce that teaching is in the Church.

The Bible says this, 2 Timothy 3:15 ***And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*** Children may not get saved when they are kids, but it is our responsibility to make sure that they become wise unto salvation from a child. We can live right so our testimony will be an influence on their lives, and we can teach them to do right. If we allow them to go their own way, not restraining them in their wrong behaviors, they will end up like Eli's boys.

1 Samuel 2:26 ***And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.*** Samuel thought it best to get along with others as he served the Lord and not make people hate him. He followed the New Testament principles of being kind to all men, (Luke 6:35; 16:9; Romans 12:18). He went the second mile, (Matthew 5:41), he turned the other cheek, (Matthew 5:39; Luke 6:29), and he did everything he possibly could do to be a nice man, a good neighbor, and a kind individual. The Bible says he had favour with God and man.

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Samuel had a rough road to travel in his life, but he made it through successfully because he had a good mother and a good father who taught him the ways of God. God help us not to blame the world, our financial status, our race, the devil, or anything else. God help us to raise our children for God and give them completely to the Lord, so all the days of their lives will bring honor and glory to His name. Amen.

1 Samuel 2:25 *If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?*

Now the Bible says in this verse that there are legal systems established on this earth where if you harm another you will go before a judge.

A quick side note As Christians we should be able to resolve our differences in the church (see Matthew 18:15-17). God said it is shameful that we can't resolve our differences together in a church. (1 Corinthians 6:1-6) But in a situation where you've been wronged by this world or you've been harmed by someone in this world, we have the example in the Bible of what to do. The Apostle Paul, in the book of Acts to appealed to every law court that was available that would be to his advantage. There's nothing wrong with that. (See Acts chapters 22, 25, 26 & 28)

Let's review quickly the doom of Eli's family. In 1 Samuel 2, the Bible says in verse 27, *And there came a man of God unto Eli,* (Thank God for His men who say what God wants them to say & not what the people want to hear.) All through the Bible we have men who, when asked by God, did what they were told, without question. God said, ***“Go in there and tell them what I said about their devilment!”***

Read 1 Samuel 2:27-34 How's that for a message? Do you understand what He said? I'm God Almighty. You say you are mine? You say you love me? You say you are following me, yet you are living in sin and committing immorality, while violating my commandments. He said, I'll tell you what I am going to do for you. I will cut you off. I will cut your children off and will cut your grandchildren off. God is holy, and He is righteous. He is not a God who approves of devilment. He is not a God that puts up with wickedness. Think about that.

There is a similar story in Leviticus 10 about Nadab and Abihu, the two sons of Aaron the first high priest. He had four boys. Two were right and two were wicked. The two wicked boys went in and offered strange fire before the Lord in the tabernacle. They violated the commandments of God, so God dropped them dead right there on the spot. Moses came to Aaron and said, "Let me tell you something, Aaron. God said you are not to shed one tear. God did what was right, and you better honor God... even though you lost

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your own sons. Don't you grieve for them Aaron. They got what they deserved."

Do you know that is a hard calling? Do you know what Jesus said? We are to put Him (Jesus) before father, mother, sisters, brothers, houses, lands, and our own life, or we are not fit to be His disciple. These are not the kind of messages that build big congregations. They are the kind of messages that will build great lives. We need to honor God. We need to put Him first and not be careless about our service for God like Eli was. We should not be sinning while we claim to be serving God like Eli's sons. We need to be like that man/woman of God telling the truth, trusting in Him, and taking a stand for the Lord.

Let's read what God did with Dwight L. Moody:

Several years after he got saved, Dwight L. Moody was a Sunday school teacher in Chicago, and he felt impressed and burdened by God to go to London, England. He prayed about it and sought God about it. He couldn't shake the burden. He believed it was God's will for him to go to London, England. The Sunday school class he was teaching took up collections to raise money for the purchase of a round trip ticket for him to England. He sailed to London, England. When he got there, he began making his way through the town and noticed a gathering, a meeting. It was not a church. It was just a public meeting of some political nature. He went in and discovered that anyone could speak if they made a motion from the floor, like at a county council meeting. So, he made a motion. He called with his hand and said, "I request the privilege of addressing this assembly." According to the rules of order, the man said, "Alright – go ahead. You have two minutes." Dwight L. Moody got up and preached the gospel. Grover Ashcroft said, "That's pretty good fellow." Big John was heading toward the back door. The county council was having a fit. They didn't know what to do. When Dwight L. Moody was all through speaking, a man walked up to him who happen to be in the meeting and said, "Sir, would you come to our chapel Sunday morning and speak?" So that Sunday morning Dwight L. Moody went to that church. He wrote in his biography later, "It was dead as if I'd gone into a cemetery." He said there was no life there. There were 400 members of that church, and they were all unsaved! Dwight L. Moody got up and preached. He said at the close of that meeting, by the time he left that building, he had been able to deal with everyone of those 400 people, and they received Jesus Christ as their Saviour. After the meeting that Sunday, the pastor took Dwight L. Moody to see a member of the church, a woman who was crippled and bed-ridden. The woman took his hand and said, "Mr. Moody, two years ago I read a tract of yours. It was printed in a

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paper." She said, "Every morning and every night for two years I've been praying that God would send you to preach in our church."

Dwight L. Moody said, "Everyone of the 1.5 million souls I led to Christ as an evangelist was a result of one bed-ridden woman praying day and night for God to open a door for me to speak in that church in London, England."

You and I have no idea how God wants to use us. We have no idea what God has in store for our lives each day. You say, "I'll never be Dwight L. Moody." But you might be the bedridden woman that prayed for Dwight L. Moody. You might be the shop keeper that led him to the Lord. You might be the member of the Sunday school class that raised the funds for him to go to London. But you'll never be any of that if you put anything before God and fail to honor Him in all things. Let's do what is right and see what He does in our lives.

Notes

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7. Why is it important not to allow your children to watch TV, YouTube and worldly videos? *
8. Compare teaching your child how to drive with teaching your child how to live a godly life.
9. What is the result in the child's life of allowing him/her to make his/her own choices and do his/her own thing? *
10. Give an example of a man who was called by God to speak the truth, and he did, even though he knew that the news would be upsetting to the hearer? *
11. How did Dwight L. Moody lead 1.5 million souls to Christ?
12. Explain 1 Samuel 2:25 using 1 Corinthians 6:1 as part of your answer.

True/false

- God saved us to tell others about His Son.
- God is not going to put up with your wickedness.
- You can serve the Lord by just being saved.
- We should follow all the rules set out in the Holy Bible and see what God will do in our life.

**Scripture memorization**

Proverbs 29:15; Psalm 101:3; Romans 12:18

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?