

8. Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel

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In the original Hebrew manuscripts, there was no 1 and 2 Samuel, or 1 and 2 Kings. They were called the Book of Samuel and the Book of Kings respectively. In the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew OT, which was written from 300 to 150 B.C., these 4 Books were joined together as the Book of Kings, but it later was divided as 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 3 Kings, and 4 Kings. But much later, they became 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings.

Many biblical scholars believe that 1 Samuel was written mostly by Samuel himself. But after his death, they believe that the prophets Nathan and Gad apparently finished it. 2 Samuel was then written also by these two godly men, mostly in the 10th century B.C., during the reigns of David and Solomon.

The Book of 1 Samuel tells the story of the transition in Israel from the period of the judges to the era of the kings and prophets. Samuel was the last of the 13 judges in Israel, and he was the first of the prophets. He is the one who anointed two kings – Saul and David.

The Book of 2 Samuel begins with the reign of David. Though he was a great king, he had many failures. The Bible is so honest that it recorded all the failures of David as well. It doesn't sugarcoat for anyone.

A. JESUS IN HANNAH'S PRAYER

1 Samuel 2:1-6 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. 2 "No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. 3 "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. 4 "The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength. 5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble. 6 "The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.

The Prayer of Hannah appears near the beginning of 1 Samuel, and the Prayer of David appears near the end of 2 Samuel. These two are remarkably similar hymns of praise. This reminds us that the two Books were originally one. Both begin by using "horn" in 1 Sam 2:1 and 2 Sam 22:3 which was a metaphor for "strength." They both refer to God as the "Rock," and reflect on divine "deliverance/salvation".

Additionally, this prayer by Hannah may well be the seed plot for "Mary's Magnificat" in Luke 1:46-55. The two hymns begin similarly, and certain themes in the Prayer of Hannah recur in the Prayer of Mary.

In v6, without realizing what she was prophesying, Hannah started to talk about the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He conquered death and the grave. He laid down His own life and took it up again.

John 10:18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

B. JESUS IN THE PROPHECY AGAINST ELI'S HOUSEHOLD

1 Sam 2:35 Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.

The high priest Eli had two horrible sons who were in the positions of priests, yet instead of ministering to the people of Israel, they were abusing them. According to the Scripture, the sin of these two was very great before the Lord, because the people of Israel abhorred the offering of the Lord.

Still the same. It is sad when men who are supposedly men of God, ministers of the Gospels, use their positions and influences to enrich themselves, taking from the people in an unrighteous way. It ends up causing people to blaspheme God.

2 Timothy 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

The Lord sent a man of God to Eli to prophesy against his family. In the midst of his prophecy from v27 to v36, the prophet talks about the other Priest who will build a sure house.

So, who is the faithful priest predicted here? He was a great priest, because he did according to what is in God's heart and in God's mind. He was a blessed priest, because God said:

- 1) **This promise was partially fulfilled in Samuel, because he functioned as a godly priest, effectively replacing the ungodly sons of Eli.**
- 2) **The promise was partially fulfilled in Zadok, in the days of Solomon, because he replaced Eli's family line in the priesthood.**
- 3) **The promise was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, because He is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:12-17).**

C. JESUS IN THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

2 Sam 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." 17 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

In this portion of the Book of 2 Samuel, the Lord extended His scepter toward king David, not because he was such a flawless person, but through him, He was going to bring forth the salvation of mankind. Instead of David building a house for God, God is going to build a very special place for His followers through His Son Jesus who would be born through the lineage of David.

The family of David did rule over Israel for more than four centuries, but was eventually removed by the nations which God had sent because of their never ending idolatry. Does it mean that God didn't keep His covenant with David? Yes, He did. V14-16 explain it. The descendent of David will enjoy a special relationship with God. If he sins, God will not reject him. Instead, God will chasten him without rejecting him.

God promises David that the reign of his dynasty will last forever, because it will turn into the Messianic Kingdom through Jesus Christ.

Other prophets also foretold a greater fulfillment of these promises:

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

D. JESUS IN DAVID'S KINDNESS

2 Samuel 9:4-8 So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. 6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!" 7 So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." 8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

Jonathan's son Mephibosheth lived as an outcast in a barren place, far from the lush royal estates that might have been his as Saul's grandson. The last thing the former king's grandson, Mephibosheth wanted to hear was a group of messengers from king David knocking at his door. He didn't know why he had been summoned, but he had to assume it was for his execution. Trembling, he hobbled into the king's chamber.

As he was prostrated before king David and fully expecting an evident execution, the words that reached Mephibosheth's ears, however, were not ones of judgment but of mercy. Mephibosheth's parched soul could hardly absorb the grace that David was showering on him.

What had Mephibosheth done to merit such kindness? Nothing. Had he deserved it, it wouldn't be grace. Listen carefully, please. Grace is acceptance without reservation, forgiveness without condemnation, pardon without probation. It is unrestrained love poured out on the undeserving. That is exactly what God has done for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. While we didn't deserve His love, He poured out His love upon us. While we were sinners, He extended His mercy upon us. While we were His enemy by our wicked nature, He draped us with His grace.

We can find nine analogies that connect David's grace to Mephibosheth and God's grace to us:

1) Once Mephibosheth had enjoyed fellowship with his father, Jonathan. So Adam had enjoyed an intimate relationship with God in the Garden of Eden.

2) When disaster struck, fear came, and Mephibosheth suffered a fall that crippled him for the rest of his life.

When sin came, humanity suffered a fall, which has forever left us spiritually crippled.

3) Out of unconditional love for his friend Jonathan, David sought anyone to whom he might extend his grace.

God, because of His unconditional love for His Son and acceptance of His Son's death on the cross, continues to seek anyone to whom He might extend His grace.

4) The crippled man was destitute and undeserving. All he could do was accept the king's favor.

We sinners are undeserving of God's mercy and without hope. In no way are we worthy of our King's favor. All we can do is humbly and gratefully accept it.

5) The king took the crippled Mephibosheth from a barren wasted land and seated him at the royal banquet table in the palace.

God, our Father, has rescued us from a moral and spiritual wasteland and seated us in a place of spiritual nourishment and intimacy.

6) David adopted Mephibosheth into his royal family, providing him with every blessing within the palace.

We also have been adopted into a family – God's family. And He gives us full privileges within His household.

7) Mephibosheth's limp was a constant reminder of David's grace.

Our moral feebleness keeps us from ever forgetting that where sin abounds, grace abounds that much more.

8) David said nothing about Mephibosheth's lame feet.

God forgets our sin because it is blotted out by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the only way God can forgive our sins.

9) When Mephibosheth sat at the king's table, he was treated with the same respect as David's own sons. The king's tablecloth covered his lame feet.

When we, one day, attend the great wedding feast of the Lamb, the same will be true for us. We will sit with prophets and priests, apostles and evangelists, pastors and missionaries. We will dine with everyone from Moses, Isaiah, the apostle Paul to Billy Graham. And we will be there with them because that same tablecloth of grace covers all our sins.

Our God's grace is amazing beyond words.