

Preparing for a King

1 Samuel 1-3

The Rise of Samuel - 1 Samuel 1-3 - The contrast in this narrative seems to be intentional and recalls the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28.

Worthless Sons - 1 Samuel 2:12-17

Summary: Difficult Children - (Proverb 13:24) An important related issue is how I administer discipline to my children. (Isaiah 1:2; Hebrews 12:3-11)

A Blessed Mother - 1 Samuel 2:18-21 - Children grow up in the presence of the Lord, first, because their parents are in the Lord and live out their faith before their children.

Summary: There seems to be evidence that Samuel's parents were consistent people and that is what God expects from Christian parents. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

A Challenged Father - 1 Samuel 2:22-25

Suggestions: When adult children go their own way what should a parent do? Always do the right thing. Adults accept responsibility for their actions, confess their wrongdoing and move forward with God's help.

A second issue: leadership has two constant temptations, greed and immorality. A third issue confronts the 21st century church, abuse of authority and that lies below the surface of these two common issues.

God's Favor - 1 Samuel 2:26

Summary: Leaders take time to develop, to grow and to mature and Samuel is doing that in the environment of corruption and frustration.

God's Judgment - 1 Samuel 2:27-34

Summary: Titus 2:11-13

God's Gracious Plan - 1 Samuel 2:35-36

Summary: Samuel is from the line of Kohath but he really functions as a prophet and judge even though he was reared in the Tabernacle. In some sense Samuel brings together the three offices that God instituted in Israel; Prophet, Priest and King, but the only person who can fulfill those three roles is Jesus Christ—Samuel is a type of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: The contrast in this narrative should remind us that each of us is individually responsible for our choices and the consequences that come from them.

The story of God nullifying his promise to 'Aaron's seed' should remind us that some benefits from God are conditional and when the promise is made to a family or nation the individual faithfulness of each person can alter the blessings that they might receive.

Our proximity to God's work is not beneficial unless we submit to his leading and grace. This is true of individuals and institutions; our faithfulness to truth and our softheartedness towards God is essential to a life that honors the Lord.