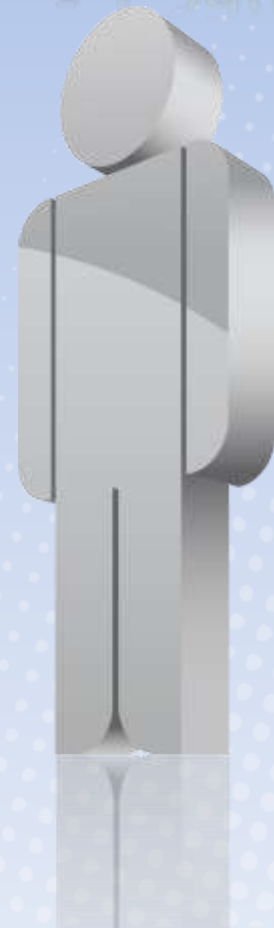


Samuel Part 3

Emergence of a Leader

- 1 Samuel 7



Emergence of a Leader

Background

- Samuel grows up in the temple under Eli
- God reveals himself to Samuel by speaking to him audibly
 - The message is that God is about to remove the house of Eli from leadership due to the wickedness of his sons and Eli's failure to remove them from their priestly office
 - God is with Samuel: “none of his words fall to the ground”
 - All Israel recognizes him as a prophet of the Lord
 - God continues to reveal himself to Samuel



Emergence of a Leader

Background

- Israel goes to war with the Philistines
- Israel is defeated (4,000 men killed in battle)
- Israelite army sends for the Ark of the Covenant
- Israel loses big time – 30,000 men die in battle and the Ark is captured
- Hophni and Phinehas (Eli's sons) both die as does Eli upon hearing the news of the captured ark
- The ark reeks havoc on cities in Philistia
- Ark sent back via cow and cart



Emergence of a Leader

1 Samuel 7

² The ark remained at Kiriath Jearim a long time—twenty years in all. Then all the people of Israel turned back to the LORD. ³ So Samuel said to all the Israelites, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” ⁴ So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. ⁵ Then Samuel said, “Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the LORD for you.”



Emergence of a Leader

⁶ When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the LORD.” Now Samuel was serving as leader of Israel at Mizpah. ⁷ When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. When the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines. ⁸ They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.”⁹ Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD.



Emergence of a Leader

He cried out to the LORD on Israel's behalf, and the LORD answered him. ¹⁰ While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. ¹¹ The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar. ¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us." ¹³ So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel's territory.



Emergence of a Leader

Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. ¹⁴ The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to Israel, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵ Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life. ¹⁶ From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places. ¹⁷ But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also held court for Israel. And he built an altar there to the LORD.



Emergence of a Leader

Lessons from the Story

1. Serve God only

- Samuel's first act as leader of Israel is to call the nation to true repentance (return to the Lord with all your heart)
- Echoes of Deuteronomy 6:5, "Love the Lord your God..."
- Put away your idols and worship/serve God only

2. Crying Out to God

- Samuel intercedes on Israel's behalf
- Israel learns a valuable lesson about God and prayer
- Samuel shows Israel the appropriate response to trouble in trusting God with salvation



Emergence of a Leader

Lessons from the Story

- 1. Serve God only**
- 2. Crying Out to God**
- 3. Deliverance**
 - Yahweh did it! God makes it clear that he is faithful and can be trusted in his response to Israel's repentance and petition for deliverance
 - God gives Israel a visible demonstration of his power over men, his love for his people, his willingness to listen to their needs and his trustworthiness to help
 - Samuel sets up a marker to remember what God did for Israel



Emergence of a Leader

Lessons for Today

1. Serve God only

- Following Jesus and worshipping/serving him only is the fulfillment of loving the Lord your God with your all
- Jesus is clear in the gospels that we must deny everything, including ourselves, to follow him
- Hebrews 12... “Throw off all that hinders...”



Emergence of a Leader

Lessons for Today

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



Emergence of a Leader

Lessons for Today

1. Serve God only

2. Crying Out to God

- Our lack of prayer is directly linked to our self-sufficiency
- James – “If anyone is in trouble, he should pray”
- Our most appropriate response for *everything* is to go God in prayer



Emergence of a Leader

Lessons for Today

- 1. Serve God only**
- 2. Crying Out to God**
- 3. Deliverance**
 - We can trust God with the outcome of our prayers and petitions
 - All the deliverances and deliverers in the OT point to the ultimate deliverer, Jesus
 - We have been delivered from sin and death and they no longer enslave us

