

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
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SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

FRIDAY

OPEN

When you see corruption in any organization or in any field, or even in religion, what does it do to you? Does it cause you to be sick? Do you wonder where is someone that is going to stand true? Where is someone that will not compromise? Oh beloved, we've seen a corrupt priesthood in 1 Samuel, but that's not the way it's always going to be. I can't wait for you to see what God says in His Word today.

PART ONE

We have been looking at 1 Samuel. In chapter 2 we have seen that the priesthood is utterly corrupted. We've seen that Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of Eli, have despised the offerings of the Lord. They have been committing immorality with the women who serve at the doorway of the tent. We have seen that Eli has honored his sons above God and we have seen God and His pronouncement on all of this. And He has told Eli that this

is going to be the sign of what's going to happen: His two sons Hophni and Phinehas are going to die on the same day. And when he makes that pronouncement, what He goes on to say is, “But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest...”(1 Samuel 2:35a) Look at 1 Samuel, chapter 2, verse 35 because this is our focus today, verse 35 and verse 36. “But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always...[and it will come about that] Everyone who is left in your house...,” now remember, He's talking to Eli, “...[shall] come and bow down to him...,” to this faithful priest He's going to raise up, “...for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and say, ‘Please assign me to one of the priest's offices so that I may eat a piece of bread.’”(2:35-36) Well, when we look at this, we're looking at an awesome prophecy. You know as we look at Samuel, I want to give you kind of a crazy little outline that I have of the book of 1 Samuel, and then we're going to look at each part of that outline as we go along. But it's just kind of a silly little thing, but it is. Priesthood corrupts, profit erupts, theocracy denied, judges subside, kings arise and God abides, the merciful sovereign, the Lord of hosts. Well, that's the book of 1 Samuel and we're going to look at it one by one. But what we see is the priesthood corrupting in 1 Samuel, chapter 2 and 1 Samuel, chapter 3. And yet in the midst of all this, God abides, the merciful sovereign, the Lord of hosts. Now remember He's mentioned as the Lord of hosts in the very beginning of 1 Samuel in verse 3. And when we see that and understand that He is the One that is in command, He is the One that rules over all the armies of heaven and over all the inhabitants of the earth; that He is the God of the heavens and He is the God of the earth; He is the God of the sun, the moon, the stars, the wind, everything; He is the Lord of hosts. And we see Him as a merciful sovereign; right here we see an awesome prophecy. We see a prophecy that on the surface just looks like nothing until you begin to take it apart, until you begin to interpret scripture with scripture. Now

there's been debate on who this faithful priest is that He's going to raise up who will do according to all that is in God's heart and in God's soul. And some think, hey this is Samuel. But what you and I need to understand is that Samuel is not from the house of Aaron. Samuel is from the tribe of Levi, but he is a Koathite and he is not from the house of Aaron. So he would not be the faithful priest. Now you say how do you know all this? Well you go to a very boring part of the Word of God. And in that very boring part you find some interesting insights that help you very much. So I want us to go to 1 Chronicles, chapter 6. And in 1 Chronicles, chapter 6 you have this genealogy. And then you begin to see where Samuel comes in and where he fits into this priesthood, but he is a son of Levi. So 1 Chronicles, chapter 6 and I just want to show you this, but when we put it all together, you've got to get knowledge. You know, it's important for you to get knowledge, and that's what we're getting. We're not only getting application, but we need knowledge and we need knowledge because God intends for us to know truth. And this is why He puts all these details down. And if He puts them down He expects us to benefit by them. So 1 Chronicles, chapter 6, verse 1: "The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath and Merari." (1 Chronicles 6:1) Okay, all of the sons of Levi will find Gershon, Kohath or Merari as one of their forefathers. So now we come down to verse 16. The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath and Merari. Okay, then he names the sons of Gershon. Then he names the sons of Kohath. And when you get down to verse 22 it says this: "The sons of Kohath were Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son, Elkanah his son..." (6:22-23a) Elkanah his son. Hey, we've seen that name before, haven't we? Yes we have. This was the husband of Hannah. All right, now remember Elkanah had children by Peninnah and he had children by Hannah. And we know that he had three sons by Hannah. Now let's drop down to save time, and so I don't loose you in all this genealogy to verse 28: "[And] The sons of Samuel were Joel the first-born, and Abijah the second." All right, now let me just pause here and say as we

move through 1 and 2 Samuel, and then we're going to go into 1 and 2 Kings and weave in Chronicles, it's awesome. I mean it's so awesome. People don't realize how vital the Old Testament is. And it's vital beloved, because this is where you meet God. This is where the precepts for life are set down and then it builds on it. I mean so many times we read the end of the book, which is the New Testament without reading the beginning of the book and we miss so much. Now as we told you in inductive Bible study you want to ask the five W's and an H, who, and what, and when, and where, and why, and how. The who is very important, so in your study guide you're going to find a page called Who's Who in 1 Samuel? All right, so you want to write down that the sons of Samuel were Joel, the first-born and Abijah, the second, A-b-i-j-a-h, Abijah the second. And that's important; you're going to see their names later on 1 Samuel. But you're going to see their names later on, even when we get to Kings, and I'm going to show you that in just a few minutes. All right, now let's go to 1 Chronicles, chapter 6. And it says in verse 31, "Now these are those whom David appointed over the service of song in the house of the Lord, after the ark rested there. [And] They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the Lord in Jerusalem."(6:31-32b) Verse 33: "[And] These are those who served with their sons: From the sons of the Kohathites were Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel, the son of Elkanah..."(6:33-34a) And then you would follow it right down to verse 38: "...the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel."(6:38) So here's the genealogy and if you didn't know this you would think O, Samuel has no right to be ministering to be ministering to the Lord. Samuel has no right to be in that temple and, and doing the service of the Lord because it was the house of Aaron that was the high priest. So what you see here is Samuel could not be the fulfillment of being this faithful priest who would do according to all that's in his heart. Samuel is of the Kohathites, okay. Now if he's not the faithful priest, then the question is:

who is this faithful priest that God is going to raise up for Himself who will do according to all that is in His heart and all that is in His soul; and this faithful priest that God will build, and this is so important, an enduring house, this faithful priest who will walk before God's anointed always? Now if it's not Samuel, then who is this faithful priest? Well, if we look long range we may say hey, that's Jesus. But we have to stop before that and see this faithful priest is going to do according to what is in God's heart, in God's soul, and God's going to build him an enduring house and he will walk before My anointed always. So let's look at another possibility. Now to look at this possibility what you have to do is you have to go forward in the scriptures. And as we go forward we find another priest by the name of Zadok that is not from the genealogy of Eli. And so who is this, who is Zadok? Well, write down 1 Kings, chapter 1, verse 7 and 8. We believe that that faithful priest could be Zadok, and I'll show you why. That faithful priest would have to do what's according to God's heart. He would have an enduring house. So if we can find that about Zadok and the fact that he would walk before God's anointed always, then we can see hey, he fulfills this.

PART TWO

Welcome back my friend. Now let's go back to 1 Samuel, chapter 2, verse 35; very important because it is a prophetic passage. So we're jumping forward now and the only way you would know to do this is by comparing scripture with scripture. And this is why we study the Bible book-by-book, why we keep who's who, so that eventually names become familiar. We come to 1 Kings, chapter 1, and as we look at verse 7; you wrote it down we find; let me give you the context: David is old, his son Adonijah is trying to take the throne so that Solomon doesn't get the throne. And he's lining up people from David's kingdom to help him. And in verse 7 it says this: "[And] He..." this is Abijah, "... had conferred with Joab the son of

Zeruiah...,” this was David’s commander, “...and with Abiathar the priest; and following Adonijah they helped him. But...,” contrast, “...Zadok the priest, Benaiah...,”(1Kings 1:7-8a) and then all these other people says, “...the mighty men who belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.”(1:8b) So here you find Abiathar who’s a priest and Zadok who’s a priest dividing and taking two different paths. Zadok takes the high road. Zadok stays with David and does not go with this usurper for the throne, because it’s already known that Solomon is to be the king. Now, from there I want you to go to chapter 2 (it is chapter 1) and verse 26, chapter 2 (chapter 1), verse 26. And it says this: then to Abiathar the priest the king said...,” this is Solomon, ““...Go to Anathoth to your own field, for you deserve to die...;”(2:26) Now why does Abiathar deserve to die? Because he went with Adonijah instead of aligning himself with Solomon, which was God’s will. So he says, ““...you deserve to die; but I will not put you death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord God before my father David, and because you were afflicted in everything with which my father was afflicted.””(2:26b) So then it goes on to say, “So Solomon dismissed Abiathar from being priest to the Lord, in order...,” this is beautiful, “...in order to fulfill the word of the Lord, which He [God] had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.”(2:27) So Abiathar was from the house of Eli, and because he was from the house of Eli then he would be cut off and he would not endure as a priest and there would not be an old man from the house of Eli in God’s house forever. So you see the fulfillment of this. And if you weren’t paying attention or you were just casually reading you might miss this whole thing. You see God fulfilling His Word. And this is what I want you to see; we’re to hang on every word. Why? Because it comes from the mouth of God, because it’s what we live by and because it has the precepts for life in it and because every word is going to be fulfilled. All right, now from there I want you to go to verse 35. We’ve seen that Abiathar is cut off because he’s of the house of Eli. Now verse 35, it says, “[And] The king appointed Benaiah the

son of Jehoida over the army in his place, and the king appointed Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.”(2:35) So Zadok rises to power. And this is exactly what verse 35 of 1 Samuel 2 says: “I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do what is according to My heart and in My soul...;” And then it says, “...I will build him an enduring house...,”(1Samuel 2:35) so next let’s look at that enduring house. And I want you to go to Ezekiel, chapter 44. And write down Ezekiel 44, verse 15. Now when the program’s over go to your observation worksheet, or better still, go to your Bible, take a pencil and write these cross-references in the margin. Put down Zadok and then you can follow it. All right, verse 15. It says, ““But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, shall come near to Me [and] minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood,’ declares the Lord God.”(Ezekiel 44:15) Now what portion of Ezekiel are we in? We’re in the final portion where He is talking about the millennial temple that is going to be rebuilt, the sacrifices that are going to be reinstituted after Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed of God returns to earth. So what do you find here? You find, you go from 1 Samuel and this prophecy to Kings, picking up that it’s Zadok and then to Ezekiel 44 and what you’re seeing is this awesome fulfillment of this prophecy, that Zadok, because he was faithful is going to have his sons stand and minister to Jesus Christ Himself. Why? Because who is Christ? Well, 1 Samuel, chapter 2, verse 35, remember He says, “...I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest...and [then] I will build him an enduring house, and he [My faithful priest] will walk before My anointed always.”(1Samuel 2:35) The word anointed is the same word for Meshia, the Messiah or the Christ. And so here you find in Ezekiel 44 in the future, you find [“Zadok ministering ... and they shall stand before Me to offer the fat and the blood.”](Ezekiel 44:15) And you know that the fat and the blood belong to the Lord because of the study you have done. You have seen it with your own eyes. Now I wanted to go to chapter 48, verse 11 also. In

chapter 48, verse 11 it says this: “It shall be for the priests who are sanctified of the sons of Zadok, who have kept My charge, who did not go astray when the sons of Israel went astray as the Levites went astray.”(Ezekiel 48:11) When you think of Zadok what do you think of? You think of faithfulness. When someone thinks of you beloved, what do they think of? It should be faithfulness. Do you know that if you’re a child of God that you’ve been raised up as a kingdom of priests unto God to offer spiritual sacrifices? And we do it all for His anointed, for the Christ. So what you see also in 1 Samuel 2:35 is you see a prophecy, a prophecy about the Messiah and how Zadok will stand before Him. But you also see another picture that goes beyond that to one of a faithful priest. And we find in Hebrews, chapter 2 that Jesus is raised up as a faithful priest unto God, a faithful priest from the house and the order of Melchizedek as Hebrews, chapter 5 says. It all points us to Jesus. It all points us to being faithful beloved, for you and I to stand firm and for you and I do know that we can trust the word, for as God has spoken it will come to pass.