

# **Unfolding Unveiling: Studies of Christ Revealed in the Types of Joshua, David, and Solomon**

## **Part Four: Samuel**

### **Chapter Twelve: Israel's Desire for a King**

If we did not know any better, we might think that Israel's victory in I Samuel chapter seven shows that Samuel's ministry is doing some good. We could start to think that the fact that Samuel knew the Lord was starting to affect the rest of Israel, but chapter eight tells us otherwise. The very next thing Israel does is ask to be like all the nations around them. Here they are trying to relate to the Lord. They are sad because the Philistines were ruling over them and the ark was not in the right place. They turn to the Lord, and Samuel initiates a relationship with them on the Lord's behalf, at which time Samuel told them to return to the Lord. They said they would, and they threw out their idols, but their heart condition never changed. They rode this move of the Spirit, which gave them a temporary victory in their circumstances, but their heart condition was still in the earth.

#### **The Same Heart Condition**

We see once more that Israel has laid hold of their deliverance and missed the Lord. They had been doing this throughout the book of Judges, and so this is nothing new. We are still in the period of the judges, so Israel will continue to behave the same way: cycling through victory and defeat but never understanding why it is that they are not simply living in victory and taking the Land.

Even a move of the Holy Spirit does not change one's heart condition. God can do great things for us: He can deliver us from our enemies and even show us the Lamb, but if we do not understand the eternal ramifications of what is happening, if we think it is just something God is doing here and now because we need it, then we cannot break with a judges lifestyle. Once more, pull down the eternal into the natural, stripping the spiritual reality of its power.

Israel, still wanting to be a part of the natural realm and relating there, never changed their heart condition, and so we find them asking for a king like the other nations. The key to understanding Israel's problem is not that they wanted a king but that they wanted to be like the nations around them. They did not want to be different than any other people group. But we are supposed to be different from everybody else because God dwells among us. Israel compares themselves to natural nations and wants to be like them. They wanted to order their lives the way natural nations ordered theirs. It is not just that they disobeyed the voice of the Lord, which they did. It is that they compared themselves by a fleshly standard, it looked good to them, and that is what they wanted. Israel's heart condition was just as wrong as it was when they took the ark of the

covenant out of the holy of holies, just as wrong during those twenty years when the ark was sitting in Abinadab's house, just as wrong as when they were hanging on to their idols. Nothing has changed. That is how we can know that the victory in chapter seven meant nothing.

Israel still had this affection – this love affair – with the natural realm. They did not want to let it go. It is their downfall every time, and yet they love it. They compare themselves by it, they feel inferior to the other nations because they do not look as good and as powerful as the heathen nations.

Can you see the parallel between Israel of old and how so much of the church functions today? Too often we try to achieve natural success by natural means even though it will guarantee an earthbound existence. The suggestion that the Church has to utilize the world system to get the gospel around the world is a myth. The way the gospel goes around the world is that a seed falls in the ground and dies. If we are ever to live the way God has intended, it will be His way or no way.

### **A Good Excuse**

Even though Samuel walked blameless before the Lord, his sons were not following the Lord, and Israel judged Samuel by his sons. The judge was growing old, and Israel did not like the idea of his corrupt sons in leadership over them. Because of Israel's natural viewpoint, this to them was a justification for looking to natural resources to solve the problem. They were judging after what they thought was good, and what they thought was bad. It is wrong to think that the seed of God can only be brought forth where everything is good and that it cannot be brought forth where problems exist because God uses Samuel to establish David as a carrier of the seed.

In the mind of Israel, Samuel as a judge left something to be desired because of the state of his children. They used this problem in Israel's government as a justification and an excuse to solve the problem by natural means.

It is important for those of us who claim that our primary purpose in life is the eternal plan of God, for those of us who believe in the higher call of God, who claim to be carriers of the seed and desire to bring forth Christ in the earth, to acknowledge that we cannot live by the knowledge of good and evil anymore. When God places a person in leadership, it does not matter how wrong they are or how far off from God they are because for us it is no longer a matter of right or wrong. If you want to be a carrier of the seed, you do not decide that because something is wrong and you do not like it, you are justified in resorting to fleshly methods to fix the problem. That is a direct contradiction to bringing forth the seed. To the carnal mind, it looks like the right way of doing things, because it eats regularly from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is the only way it can see things. That is why we must have the mind of Christ, and why we must have our minds renewed.

Resorting to the arm of the flesh is what Israel did. They had a valid complaint, but that was not the issue. God did not seem nearly as concerned about the sons being wrong as He was the state of Israel's heart, which demanded a king. That is what upset the Lord because He has a different viewpoint altogether. If Christ can come forth in the situation, then that is all that matters. God can take care of the wrong government. We saw that with Hophni and Phineas in one day.

As we will see, Samuel's real son was David. They were of the same kind. God does not pour His Spirit on flesh but on the new man. It is the manifestation that God has accepted the whole because the firstfruits were accepted. Samuel was relating from where the Lord appears, and he anointed David from that position, which made him Samuel's real offspring. That the natural relationship between Samuel and his sons that was not working properly was not the issue because Samuel was not relating from that position anyway.

When you see a problem in a group of Christians, and it is bad, the answer is never found in correcting the problem in the natural realm. And oftentimes a solution will present itself that will look like it will solve the problem. It is not God's heart.

When you are about the eternal plan of God, all of the rules change. He allows for things in your life that you should not have to put up with, but personal rights no longer apply for those who desire that Christ come forth. At that point, you have just relinquished all rights to a comfortable life.

What makes it difficult to acknowledge this is that we cannot bear for something to be wrong. But we must recognize that God does not relate by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This does not mean that we deny it when something is wrong. It says in verse three that Samuel's sons were doing wrong. But next verse does not say, "And so God raised up all the elders of Israel, and they stoned the sons of Samuel, and all of Israel lived happily ever after." No, it says that Israel failed when they demanded a king like the nations. Isn't it amazing how God sees things! If we had it our way, we would stone the sons of Samuel, put a king on the throne, and then we would live in the perfect will of God until Jesus came back – or until the next problem came along.

### **The Real Problem**

When we are carnally minded, we look at right and wrong, and we miss the plan of God because we think that the other person really is the problem. We are convinced that if that person would only get things straight, everything would go according to plan. Meanwhile, God is thinking, "If you would just know that you are supposed to bring forth the seed, then everything would go according to My plan." He can work with all kinds of situations down here. He cares about those who care about what He cares about, drawing from His reality, from where His heart is, and bringing forth the seed. Christ can be brought forth under both great leaders and bad leaders.

Israel wanted a king that would judge them like all the nations around them. Verses six and seven show us that Israel had rejected the Lord's government for them. Government affects how we behave, how we live day to day. But Israel rejected God's method of government. They wanted a God that will bless this natural realm, where they preferred to live. They used God's promise that says He will never leave or forsake us to demand earthly blessings to satisfy their selfishness, ambitions, and personal plans for their lives. That is not the correct interpretation of the Scriptures. Jesus never leaves us for forsakes us because He put us to death and raised us in His Son. That is where He never leaves us or forsakes us.

A lot of the ministries that the church engages in today – intercessory prayer, deliverance, spiritual warfare – are merely an extension of salvation. Jesus saves us. Jesus saves us from our sins, from hell, from the devil, from our sicknesses. But one of these days, someone is going to let Christ be their life and live through them. Israel is only interested in God delivering them. And they want an earthly king to deliver them. They are not interested in God's plan, and so God relents and gives them what they ask for.

### **The Government of Israel's Choosing**

While reading through verses 8-18 of chapter eight, notice how the Lord describes the king that will rule over them. The most frequently repeated words are "take" and "for himself". This would not be a king who would serve the Lord's people by serving the Lord's interests, but a king who would use the Lord's people and their resources to serve his own interests. When Israel rejected the Lord as their king, they chose a government that takes for itself. Its entire goal would be to keep self in the center. This is the key that unlocks the kingdom of Saul. This passage alone explains the entire reign of Saul for us, why Saul hated David, and why God rejected him as king over Israel.

God's people sin by disobeying Him whenever they initiate something and do not allow God to be the source (cf. I Sam. 8:19-22). The people were the ones who initiated the instituting of a king, and it says of them in I Samuel 8:19 that they refused to obey the voice of Samuel. When the children of Israel demanded a king, it was outside of the will and timing of God. God giving them what they wanted was not to give them something that was out from Himself, like when He gave His Son. Rather, He yielded to their desires. Israel's heart was far from God, and what they wanted was something temporal, not something spiritual and eternal. What God allowed them to have was that which was of themselves. The Scripture says that they rejected God's rule for their own (self) rule (cf. I Sam. 8:7). What was sitting on the throne of Israel was self – the desire of the people and a manifestation of their heart condition. They wanted to be ruled by self! Their heart condition rejected God, and God allowed them to be ruled by that heart condition. From this point until David ruled at Hebron, self would be Israel's primary governing force.

