

A MAN WHO DID THE IMPOSSIBLE
(SAMUEL)

I. BACKGROUND

A. Political Conditions:

1. For 300 yrs. there were no prophets or preachers.
2. The surrounding countries (Canaanites, Philistines) caused much trouble
3. The 12 Tribes were not united
4. God raised up "Deliverers" in critical hrs. (Gideon-Deborah-Samson)
5. Only temporary relief came with the "deliverers"
6. Egypt lost power - Assyria began to assert itself

B. Social Conditions:

1. A confusing and complex adjustment from slavery and years of wilderness to living in their own land was Israel experiencing
2. There was constant unrest
3. There was no central government
4. The Philistines almost had Israel back into slavery

C. Religious Conditions:

1. There had been no prophets or preachers for many years in Israel
2. There was no religious instruction (from Moses to Samuel)
3. Shiloh was the center of worship (The High Priest and the Ark of the Covenant were there)
4. Eli was High Priest and his own family was immoral
5. Bands of young men roamed about seeking to learn of God

II. THE MAN

A. Equipment:

1. He had Godly parents and a Godly home
2. Samuel was dedicated to the Lord by his mother
3. He lived and was trained by Eli, the High Priest of God
4. He had an early call by God

B. His Work:

1. He was a Seer (9:9)
2. He was a Priest (3:10)
3. He was a Leader (7:5)
4. He was a Judge (7:15)
5. He was a Maker of Kings (10:6, 16:13)
6. He was a Man of Prayer
7. He was a Prophet (3:9)
8. He was a Teacher (9:6-7)

C. His Character -

He was deeply religious, highly moral, and cared for others

LESSONS FROM SAMUEL:

1. A person can do the impossible when God is in control.
2. It is wise to listen for God's voice.
3. It is essential to answer when God calls.
4. Obedience to God is better than any service or sacrifice.
5. Early religious training in the home is valuable.
6. God is never satisfied with partial obedience.
7. God may use you to train someone who will overshadow you.
8. It is not necessary to withdraw from political life in order to be a spiritual leader.
9. Compromise with evil is deadly.
10. God can only use those who are willing to be used - and then only so far as they will let Him use them.