

Samuel – A Character Study

A – Developing the Foundation – 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2 Samuel 2:1-10

1. Consider the following and discuss how each would have been a factor in developing the foundation of Samuel's character:
 - a. Elkanah and Hannah's character in general. R1882A:1; R3114:1; R5615:3

 - b. Hannah's vow to God in prayer, R1671:3

 - c. The affect that God's answer had upon Hannah. R5615:4-6

 - d. How Hannah fulfilled her vow and how Elkanah supported her. R1671:6-9; R1882A:2; R4114:6; R5615:1-2

 - e. Hannah's prayer when she surrendered Samuel to serve God. R5615:1-2

2. What can we conclude respecting Samuel's character foundation when he was taken to Eli? Duet 6:1-25; Duet 15:15-22; Mark 10:17-20; Eph 6:1-3; R1671:4-5; R3114:8; R4192:7

3. How can we apply these lessons to developing the character foundation of a new creature in Christ? R1671:1-2, 4, 8; R4090:6

B – Developing the Superstructure – 1 Samuel 2:11 – 1 Samuel 4:1

4. Consider the following and discuss how each would have been a factor in developing the superstructure of Samuel's character:
 - a. The character of Eli, his Son's and how God held Eli accountable. R1882A:3-7; R5296:2; 1 Samuel 2:17-18
 - b. How Elkanah and Hannah continued to support Samuel
 - c. How God blessed Elkanah and Hannah for their sacrifice and service
 - d. Samuel's initial response to God calling him three times and his final response following Eli's counsel. R3114:11-12; R5296:4; R5615:7-8
 - e. Samuel's fear to tell Eli and the fact that he did not withhold anything when pressed by Eli. R4090:20
5. What can we conclude respecting the superstructure of Samuel's character up to the time of Eli's death? 1 Samuel 2:26; 1 Samuel 3:19-21; R5626:1; R5627:1
6. How can we apply these lessons to developing the character superstructure of a new creature in Christ? R1882A:8-9; R3114:13, 15-17; R4090:18-19, 21-23; R5626:15; R5296:7-14

C – The Application and Trial of a Developed Character - 1 Samuel 7:1 – 1 Samuel 8:5

7. Consider the following and discuss the relationship to the application and trial of Samuel's developed character:
 - a. Israel's willingness to accept Samuel as a judge and to ultimately reform (include the timing and process that lead to the outward acts of reformation) R1882B:1-2; R5627:1-5
 - b. Samuel's burnt offering of a Lamb, his cry unto God and God's response and reward of Samuel and the Nation of Israel. R4192:3; R5627:6-9, 13
 - c. That Samuel judged Israel all of his life and setup a circuit judge system. R3216:1; R5627:15, 19; R5636:5
 - d. Samuel's actions when he learned of the transgressions of his sons. R3216:2
 - e. The fact that God did not hold Samuel responsible for the transgressions of his sons
8. What can we conclude respecting the application and trial of Samuel's developed character up to the point that he learned of his Son's transgressions? R3216:1
9. How can we apply these lessons to the application and trial of the developed character of a new creature in Christ? R1882B:3-5; R5627:10-12, 14, 16-18

D – Maintaining a Developed Character Even Unto Death (scriptures noted below)

10. Note how the following events demonstrated that Samuel maintained his character throughout the remainder of his career:

- a. His initial response to Israel's request for a King and his role as an intermediary between God and Israel. 1 Samuel 8:6 – 21; R3216:6; R4192:5, 8-9; R5636:7

- b. His participation in the process of fulfilling God's will in the selection of Israel's first earthly King. 1 Samuel 8:22 – 1 Samuel 11:15; R3216:7-9; R5636:8-13, 21-23

- c. His farewell address. 1 Samuel 12:1-25; R3222:2, 11

- d. His actions relative to Saul's transgressions and God's rejection of Saul. 1 Samuel 13:8-14; 1 Samuel 15:1-35; R3224:1-2, 10-11, 15; R5430:14; R5656:1

- e. His actions following God's instructions to anoint Saul's replacement. 1 Samuel 16:1-13; R3225:3-5; R5656:5

11. What can we conclude respecting the maintenance of Samuel's character "even unto death"? 1 Samuel 25:1; Heb 11:32, 39-40

12. How can we apply these lessons to maintaining the character of a new creature in Christ "even unto death"? R3216:10; 14-15; R3222:10, 12-13; R3224:3, 12-13; R3225:6-10; R4192:11; R5430:4-7, 16-21; R5656:6