

Title: SAMUEL AND JESUS - GOD'S REVELATION, 1 SAMUEL 3:1-21
(Chatham, NJ; 01/22/12, AM) (D - Comparison Outline)

Theme: The lives of both Samuel, the judge, and Jesus indicate the presence of God who revealed his Word through both men.

Purpose: To compare the two men and show how their work was similar, in particular, to demonstrate that God revealed his Word through them.

Introduction:

1. Samuel was the last judge of Israel and one of the many Old Testament figures who revealed God's Word to the nation of the Mosaic covenant.
2. Jesus was born of this same people, and in his life we see parallels between his calling and ministry and the calling of Samuel.
3. This morning we'll look at both men.

I. Samuel's Call/Jesus' Intuition

A. Samuel

1. His birth a result of his mother's commitment.
2. Given to serve at the Temple at a time that the Word of God was rare, 1 (often occurring to prophets in visions)
3. God speaks directly to Samuel but Eli must prompt him to give the correct response
4. The Word of God is revealed and will continue to be revealed through Samuel

B. Jesus

1. His birth came about by prophesy but, like Samuel, the hand of God directed it
2. Even after his birth, according to Matthew, many things happened to protect him
3. More importantly the Temple episode in Luke demonstrates that Jesus already knew what his life's work and meaning would be
4. The Word of God was revealed through him

II. A New Thing

A. Samuel

1. A new thing that will startle everyone, 11
2. Eli's family punished for abusing their office as priests, 12-14
3. The Ark eventually was captured
4. God was at work in all of this

B. Jesus

1. A new epoch in salvation history: the Kingdom of God established
2. This new thing brings about a new status to humanity: Jew and Gentile share in having access to God, Eph. 2:18
3. We have the promise also of a new heaven and new earth

III. God's Word about the Future

A. Samuel

1. Judgment for Samuel's day: Eli judged
2. God often comes with an initial word of judgment
3. Amos 4:12 warns Israel, "Prepare to meet your God."
4. The future could be bleak if God comes in judgment (a not unusual occurrence)

B. Jesus

1. His message of repentance

2. John's message: Get ready! Prepare the way for the Lord!
3. We do this by repentance
4. Jesus begins with the same demand, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."
5. However, it dovetails with the blessing of salvation, something ancient Israel experienced by God defending them from their enemies.
6. Jesus will deliver them from evil, the enemy who has captured all humans

IV. Words Directly from God

A. Samuel

1. His words do not fall to the ground, 19
2. Samuel maintains a long ministry as judge of Israel: he made a journey throughout the land regularly, 7:16-17
3. At one point in Amos 8:11-12 the prophet suggests that in the presence of an evil generation God stays silent even if people seek to hear from him
4. It is thus a great blessing that God speaks to each new generation

B. Jesus

1. His Words are from God - this is how God speaks to each new generation
2. He affirmed everything he said by his miracles and by the Resurrection
3. Paul assures the Thessalonians, 1 Thess. 2:13, that they were right
4. He brought light to a dark world, one that seldom hears the Word of God (C. S. Lewis described us as the Silent Planet in one of his space trilogies)

V. Reputations and Legacies

A. Samuel

1. Recognized by the community from Dan to Beersheba, 20-21
2. They could see the activity and judgments of God in his words
3. His reputation lasted well into his retirement, 12:1-5
4. He has left an indelible mark on salvation history

B. Jesus

1. Do I even have to defend this?
2. History has already testified to this and will continue to do so, long after all of us are gone
3. Other alleged voices from God cannot sustain themselves when the light of Christ's revelation shines on them
4. All other voices will be silenced
5. All mankind will eventually fall at Jesus' feet, Phil. 2:11

Conclusion:

1. The only thing left is for history to play itself out.
2. More importantly every human being must respond to God's voice.
3. God speaks through Jesus and his church; he calls all people to repent and believe in his Son; he blesses the faithful with eternal life.
4. Won't you come to him today?