

# **THE GOD THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS.**

**JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY AND FOREVER.**

**“THE LIFE AND FAITH OF SAMUEL”**

**MAY 21, 2023**

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# ANCHOR BIBLE REFERENCES

## ➤ Hebrews 13: 5-8

➤ <sup>5</sup> God has said,

“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”

➤ <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mortal man do to me?”

➤ <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.  
**Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.**

➤ <sup>8</sup> **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**Our Mandate Remains: “The House of Prayer for all Nations,  
Extending God’s Love to all the Nations.”**

**We are sowers (not eaters) but the sower reaps in multiple folds.**



# The Leaders, consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

## Luke 5:37-38

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined."

"Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

**(This year, we must have a fresh vision of our Christian life)**

As we consider the life of the leaders and their faith, let us apply the lessons and, thus, create new wineskins and expand our spiritual container to enable God to move the mountains He has planned to move for us from 2023.

# The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- ▶ Samuel wrote the book of Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel. You can sense Samuel's heart from the tone and language of his writing. For example, starting the book of Judges, he wrote:
- ▶ **Judges 1:** <sup>1</sup> After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the LORD, "Who of us is to go up first to fight against the Canaanites?" The LORD answered, "Judah shall go up; I have given the land into their hands." <sup>3</sup> The men of Judah then said to the Simeonites their fellow Israelites, "Come up with us into the territory allotted to us, to fight against the Canaanites. .... <sup>4</sup> When Judah attacked, the LORD gave the Canaanites and Perizzites into their hands, and they struck down ten thousand men at Bezek. <sup>5</sup> ....., putting to rout the Canaanites and Perizzites.

**Brethren, we see, in the tone & language of Samuel's writing, excitement about the victory the Lord brings to His chosen.**

# The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- From the day Samuel was taken to the temple by his mother, he never left the temple; he served God diligently.

This commitment allowed Samuel (an outsider) to enjoy the food of the insiders (Eli's priestly family) and as a matter of fact, to take over the food of the insiders (Samuel was chosen by God instead of Eli's privileged children).

Bible says, over about 450 years period, the descendants of Eleazar, Aaron's oldest son, presided as high priests at the tabernacle and represented Israel before the Lord. **With the ordination of Eli**, however, the Lord passed the office of high priest to a descendant of Ithamar, the fourth and youngest son of Aaron.

**Eli's sons were, therefore, from the priestly line, and it was their birth-right to serve in the temple.** But this right was passed unto Samuel on the grounds of character, diligence and service.



# The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

## ► The Diligent Hand Will Rule (Proverbs 12:24)

**Eli's Sons:** 1 Samuel 2: <sup>12</sup> Eli's sons had no regard for the LORD.... <sup>17</sup> This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt... <sup>22</sup> Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel... <sup>23</sup> So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the LORD's will to put them to death.

**Samuel:** <sup>18</sup> But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him. <sup>20</sup> Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she gave to the LORD." <sup>21</sup> **And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD. (BRETHREN, THIS IS DILIGENCE)**

**1 Samuel: <sup>26</sup> And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.**

# The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- **Brethren**, God does not always choose the expected ones. He looks at our diligence.... Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, & Samuel were all unlikely choices for leadership; yet God chose the.
- This means **You and I** stand a strong chance of being used, if we have the right faith and diligence.

**In Mathew 15: 22**, even though the Canaanite woman was not an insider to Jesus, and so did not deserve the favour of God, she got it because of her unswerving faith and persistence.

<sup>21</sup>When Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to Him, **crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!** My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus did not answer a word. So His disciples (the insiders) came to Him and urged Him, **“Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”**

# The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➔ Rather, the woman went deeper, and then even deeper again:

<sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before Him. “Lord, help me!” she said. (i.e. going deeper). <sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” (meaning: *I must not allow the Gentiles to participate in my blessings, belonging to the people of Israel* i.e., the woman was an outsider) (...But she pushed further). <sup>27</sup> “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” <sup>28</sup> **Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.”** And her daughter was healed at that moment.

**Brethren, in every situation, push through; the desires of the righteous will never be cut-off (Proverbs 23:18).**

- when the woman just stood and cried out from a distance, Jesus did not answer a word. When she came & knelt before Him (now deeper/closer), **Jesus replied**. When she further argued her case with humility and reverence, <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to her, **“Woman, you have great faith! ...**



# The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- **Brethren**, it took this woman **going three-steps deeper** before she got to the level of faith that Jesus was testing for; that ground that became the holy ground for action.
- God answers all prayers. “With God all things are possible (**Matth. 19:26**). It just requires a certain depth of faith, which only the Lord determines.

**Genesis 18:14** “Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you.” (*...at the right depth of faith, I will come to you*).

**Brethren**, Samuel came from ‘outside’ and not only ate but took over the food that belonged to ‘the insiders’.

**How did Samuel achieve that?**

# The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

## 1. The vow of his mother was upheld by his father

**Numbers 30:** <sup>6</sup> “If a woman makes a vow or her lips utter a rash promise by which she obligates herself <sup>7</sup> and her husband hears about it but says nothing to her, then her vows or the pledges by which she obligated herself will stand.

**In 1 Samuel 1,** <sup>21</sup> When Hannah’s husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vow, <sup>22</sup> Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always.” <sup>23</sup> “Do **what seems best to you,**” her husband Elkanah told her. “Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his word.” So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him. <sup>24</sup> After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, ... and brought him to the house of the LORD.... <sup>27</sup> I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. <sup>28</sup> So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.

**The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.**

**2. From the day he entered the temple, Samuel never left the presence of God. Instead, he continued to grow deeper.**

**1 Samuel 3:** <sup>1</sup>The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

### **3. The LORD Called Samuel**

**1 Samuel 3:** <sup>2</sup> One night Eli, ..., was lying down in his usual place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> **Then the LORD called Samuel.**

.... <sup>6</sup> Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" .... <sup>8</sup> A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!"

... Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"**

# The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

**<sup>11</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. (Brethren, God is about to use little Samuel who did not even know how to hear the Lord).**

**1 Samuel 3: <sup>19</sup> The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. <sup>21</sup> The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.**

## **1 Samuel 7:**

**<sup>13</sup> ... Throughout Samuel’s lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. <sup>15</sup> Samuel continued as Israel’s leader all the days of his life.**



**The Leader, SAMUEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.**

## **CONCLUSION**

Samuel's life and faith are worthy of emulation.

- The simplicity of his faith,
- His diligence,
- His consistency,
- His growth,
- His zeal for God, and
- His willingness to lead the house of God,

Are all worthy of imitation.

**GOD BLESS YOU!**