

Chapter 7

v.2 “The ark was in Kiriath Jearim for 20 years before Samuel undertook his first recorded public ministry. In actual fact the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim for about 100 years. (see 2 Sam 5.5; 6.1-11).” (Missler)

v.5 “I will intercede. Samuel, like Moses, was later remembered as a great intercessor (see Ps 99.6; Jer 15.1).” (NIV)

v.6 “they drew water and poured it out... This type of ceremony...appears to symbolize the pouring out of one’s heart in repentance and humility before the Lord.” (NIV) Mizpah “Note...the statement in I Maccabees 3.46 to the effect that it was an old place of prayer for Israel. It must have been an early center of worship of some kind. In the monarchical period it seems to have been a strategically important northern fortress of Judah. (I Kings 15.16-22).” (McCarter)

“The climactic scene is that of the battle itself. And significantly it is not an army of Israel or even Samuel himself who stampedes the invading Philistines.... The field is won by divine warfare, and the Israelites have nothing to do but take up the pursuit of the Philistines as they rush precipitously into the hills.” (McCarter)

v.12 “Ebenezer means stone of help.” (NIV)

“From that day on (until David’s great victory over the Philistines), their enemy kept their distance.... After the battle of Ebenezer, about 1084 B.C... the nation of Israel was content to follow Samuel’s leadership for the next 30 years or so.” (Missler)

“The position of the ark narrative in its present context effectually gives to Samuel the distinction of having presided over the restoration of order in Israel.... All is well.... Yahweh rules by his prophet. The land is secure. We have seen a major crisis met and surmounted under Samuel’s leadership.” (McCarter).

End of The Story of Samuel—ch’s 1-7

Chapter 8 *(Transition to the Monarchy)*

v.5 “The elders cite Samuel’s age and the misconduct of his sons as justifications for their request for a king.” (NIV)

v.6 “Is Samuel displeased because he takes the request as a personal betrayal or because he objects to its religious impropriety?” (McCarter)

v.7 Moses spoke of a kingship in Israel (Dt 17.14-20). “The sin of Israel in requesting a king did not rest in any evil inherent in kingship itself, but in the kind of kingship the people envisioned and their reasons for requesting it. Their desire was for a form of kingship that denied their covenant relationship with the Lord, who himself was pledged to be their savior and deliverer. In requesting a king ‘like all the other nations’ they broke the covenant, rejected the Lord who was their King (12.12; Nu 23.21; Dt 33.5) and forgot his constant provision for their protection in the past (10.18; 12.8-11).” (NIV)

“The people demand a king of Samuel because they want to be like the other nations; but this is precisely what they are not supposed to be. They are a special community, divinely provided for and uniquely privileged.” (McCarter)

“Henceforth Israel’s experience would be dominated by the deeds of her kings, for better or for worse.... The change is not simply one of leaders but rather of institutions of leadership.” (McCarter)

Chapter 9

(The Story of Saul—ch’s 9-15)

v.6 “In general a man of God was a professional holy man.” (McCarter) “Saul in his innocence asks the man of God to inform him about the lost asses, but what he is informed is that he is to prince over Israel.” (McCarter)

v.16 “Anointing signifies separation to the Lord for a particular task and divine equipping for the task.” (NIV)

v.21 “It is significant that Saul comes from the humblest clan of the smallest tribe, because it emphasizes the miraculous nature of his rise to the throne.” (McCarter)

v.24 “This is the so-called ‘thigh of consecration’, that part of a sacrificial animal reserved for the priests and their families. Saul is being treated as if he were a priest!” (McCarter)

“Saul makes his first appearance in the Bible as an agreeable young man, motivated only by a sense of duty, unassuming, deferential, and, as far as we can see, without high ambition.” (McCarter)