

Samuel Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

What does Samuel's story show us about the way the LORD works out his will?

Hannah made a vow to the LORD and kept it. What might have happened if she did not?

Have you ever made a vow to the LORD that you did not keep?

Would a modern social service agency have placed Samuel with Eli?

How was Samuel protected from not turning out like Hophni and Phinehas?

Is it possible to be a bad parent with good intentions?

How did God orchestrate Samuel's first "message from the LORD"?

Would Samuel have been afraid to tell bad news to his "father figure"?

Was it providential that Eli insisted on "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth"?

What might Eli have done instead of accepting the message?

How did this experience prepare Samuel from a young age to trust the LORD and speak the truth?

When Eli died and the Ark was lost to the Philistines, Samuel was probably 17 years old but over 20 years he became known as a prophet. How did he react to the people's request for a king?

Where did Saul go wrong?

Do we often give in to temptation just before it would have been over? Why is that?

What did Samuel learn between the time he anointed Saul and the time he anointed David?

Is it possible for wise, godly people to make bad decisions?

Why might the LORD have allowed a messy situation to continue in Israel with Saul continuing to reign after David had been anointed?

What does it teach us about thinking that things are "out of control"?

Is there a simple template we can apply to reality to determine the LORD's will?

What does the experience of Saul with the witch at Endor teach us about spiritism?