

FROM SINFUL TO SANCTIFIED WITH THE WORD
CHANGING CULTURE
I & II SAMUEL SEPTEMBER 25

September 7, 2025

Changed People Change People (I Samuel 1-15)

- I Samuel 16:7
- This book covers the time period of 1120-1010 BC. Samuel is the last of the rule of judges and is used to anoint the first king, Saul.
- Israel is going through changes, but one thing is consistent: God continues to guide His people while they obey His voice or rebel against it.
- Only spiritual change can effect holy change in others; outside change is temporal and deceiving.

1. Cultural Shift: Man cannot dictate to God what He should do: Hannah changes from bitterness to blessing and bears a son that will bring honor to God among wicked "church people"

- I Samuel 1:6-7
- I Samuel 1:16
- I Samuel 1:20; I Samuel 2:11

2. Cultural Shift: Spiritual sin deafens God's voice, but obedience magnifies His voice: Eli's sons versus Samuel

- I Samuel 2:12, 26
- I Samuel 2:30
- I Samuel 3:19-20
- I Samuel 7:3

3. Cultural Shift: Theocracy leads to worship while Monarchy leads to idolatry: Saul versus Jonathan

- I Samuel 8:7, 19-20
- I Samuel 10:1, 6
- I Samuel 13:8-10
- I Samuel 13:13-14
- I Samuel 14:45
- I Samuel 15:19

The unsuspected people (Hannah, Samuel, and Jonathan) allowed God to change them and they changed the people of Israel for God. However, the main characters (Eli's sons and Saul) had the great opportunity to change Israel positively, but they chose self over Spirit.

Your testimony is a powerful tool to reveal God's working in you to change people's hearts to follow Jesus. Your change can be contagious!

1. Read I Samuel 1-2; Psalm 34:4-6; Philippians 4:6-7; Luke 1:46-55.

How does Hannah's change from sorrow to praise illustrate that personal change can influence future generations? How does Hannah's song compare to Mary's song?

2. Read I Samuel 3; Proverbs 14:34; Jeremiah 1:4-10; John 10:27.

How does the change in Samuel compare to the lack of change in Hophni and Phinehas? Why was God so favorable to Samuel and not to Eli's sons? How did Samuel's surrender open the door for God's blessings and change? How can you surrender to His will and effect change in others?

3. Read I Samuel 4-7; Hosea 4:6; II Chronicles 7:14; Acts 3:19.

The Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of the LORD and the Israelites often misused it and didn't guard it. How you treat the LORD reveals the level of change in your heart. Notice God can protect Himself, He does not need us but chooses to allow us to see His glory. How does the story of Dagon show the power of our God? How did Samuel's obedience produce change in the people of Israel? What is the significance of Ebenezer? What is your stone of help?

4. Read I Samuel 8-15; Hosea 13:10-11; I Corinthians 1:27-29; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Proverbs 16:25; Matthew 7:21.

In what ways was Saul a good choice for king and in what ways did he change, which brought about God's chastening? How does Jonathan reveal that one man's faithful change can impact a nation?

5. Read II Corinthians 5:17.

What does it mean to be changed (new creation)? How has Jesus changed you? Do you exhibit the characteristics of Galatians 5:19-21 or 22-23?
Are you willing to share your change with others?