

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

June 30, 2019

Issue 26

## Let's Look At The Books Of Samuel

by: Ronnie Scherffius

The books of Samuel are of extreme value and greatly loved books by Bible students. These books were originally one book belonging to the books of the Kingdoms, but translators of the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, ca. 250 B.C.), divided the books because of the need for space (Greek text took up more space than the Hebrew text). Jerome, in his Latin translation (the Vulgate, ca. 400 A.D.) adopted the division of the Septuagint and the books have come down to us as *The First (Second) Book of Samuel*, otherwise called, *The First (Second) Book of the Kings*. (note these titles in your own Bibles)

The books of Samuel cover a period of about 150 years of *Hebrew History* (from the birth of Samuel to the ending of David's reign as king) and provide the inspired record of the founding of David's throne on which the Messiah will reign (2 Sam. 7). Without question, Second Samuel chapter seven serves as the climax of the two books and stands as one of the most important chapters in all of the Old Testament!

The apostle Paul wrote, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). Some of the many spiritual lessons from the books of Samuel that provide comfort and hope for us as Christians include: God's glory will not remain with those who do not honor Him (1 Sam. 3-4); God's plans and purposes are not dependent upon man (1 Samuel 5); the sovereignty of God (1 Sam. 8); the providence of God in bringing about His will (1 Sam. 9); the

weakness of the flesh and consequence of yielding to sin (2 Sam. 11); your sin will find you out (2 Sam. 12; cf. Num. 32:23); the grace and mercy of God toward penitent men (2 Sam. 12).

Another way to consider the books of Samuel is to note various characteristics and themes of the books. One of the key characteristics of these books is the *Lord's anointed*. This phrase is used to refer to the king of Israel. It is found no less than ten times (1 Sam. 16:6; 24:6, 10; 26:9, 11, 16, 23; 2 Sam. 1:14, 16; 19:21) and it is found **only** in the books of Samuel! *Prayer* is another characteristic that runs throughout these books of history. From the beginning with the prayer of Hannah (1 Sam. 2:1-10), to the prayers of Samuel (1 Sam. 7:5-12; 12:16-25; 15:10-11) and David (2 Sam. 7:18-29; 15:30-31; 22:3-7) prayer plays a key part in the structure and development of the books. It is worthy to note that we never see King Saul pray to God!

The increasing role of the prophetic office is another key feature of the books of Samuel. Three men are identified by name as prophets, Samuel (1 Sam. 3:20), Gad (1 Sam. 22:5; 2 Sam. 24:11), and Nathan (2 Sam. 7:2; 12:25). The prophets are identified as a *seer* (1 Sam. 9:9, 11, 18-19; 2 Sam. 15:27; 24:11) and as a *man of God* (1 Sam. 2:27; 9:6-8, 10), identifying their work of foretelling and identifying from whom their messages originated. In the books of Samuel we are also introduced to the *company* or *band of the prophets* (1 Sam. 10:5, 10; 19:20) about whom we read throughout the later historical narratives in the books of Kings.

Another interesting characteristic of the books of Samuel is *transition*. In the book of Samuel we see the following transitions: from Judges to Monarchy; from Saul to David; from Tribes to a Kingdom. Of course, the primary transition is the transition of Israel from rule by Judges to rule by Kings, which is explained in First Samuel 8:4-7.

As noted earlier, the climax and key chapter of the books of Samuel is God's covenant with David (2 Sam. 7:12-17). The key features of this covenant/promise are: the *Throne of David*, the *House of David*, and the *Seed of David*. These themes are noted no less than forty-six times throughout the Bible.

To better study the books it is good to break them down in the following manner: *The Two Judges: The History Of Eli And Samuel* (1 Sam. 1-7); *The Prophet Judge And The King Of Israel: The History Of Samuel And Saul* (1 Sam. 8-15); *The Two Kings: The History Of Saul And David* (1 Sam. 16-31); *Warrior, Prophet, Poet, And King: The History Of David* (2 Samuel 1-24).

The books of Samuel are some of the most interesting books of the historical narratives of the Old Testament and provide some of the richest textual studies as well. If you have never taken time to study these important historical books, take some time and look at the books of Samuel!

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### **Downloading Our Souls**

Troy Albers

Dmitry Itskov is confident that he will live forever by downloading his mind into a "brain computer."

In February 2011, Itskov, a Russian entrepreneur, established a non-profit organization called the 2045 Initiative. The mission of the organization, according to its website, is "to create technologies enabling the transfer of an individual's personality to a more advanced non-biological carrier, and extending life, including to the point of immortality (Newsweek, 12/11/18; 2045.com/ ideology)."

Human immortality has been sought after for thousands of years, and yet, remains unattainable. The first emperor of unified China, Qin Shihuang, born in 259 B.C., issued a decree demanding that his subjects search for an elixir that would allow him to have immortality. The decree was issued when Qin Shihuang was 38 years of age. He died at age 49 (Smithsonian, 12/29/2017).

While evading man's grasp, immortality can be found in God. Rather than wasting our time trying to download our minds into a machine, eternal life can be had by being in Christ (Romans 6:23).

Being "in Christ" requires that one be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:20).

In 1 John 5:20, we read that by being in Christ, we can know "the true God and eternal life."

Being freed from the "law of sin and death" can only be experienced by living our lives in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2).

Not only is immortality possible; it is essential. Paul put it this way in 1 Corinthians 15:53-54:

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory.

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*The Reminder, Graeber Road Weekly Bulletin, February 3, 2019.*

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Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items only: Cake mixes, frostings, Cooking Spray. Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway.

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 30, 2019

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Bryant Siegel  
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons  
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobs  
Offering: Bryce Dolan  
Assist: Sammy Scherffius, Kirk FitzSimmons, Manny Flonnory

**Sunday Evening:** Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobs

### **Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran  
P.M. Closing: Young Men

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Wayne Jones

**Open/Close Building:** Randles

**Sound System:** Scott DeDear

### **Greeters:**

Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Prepare Communion:** Randles

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MidTown will be hosting the 2019 Coastal Bend Summer Youth Series on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7pm. We need volunteers to bring drinks and cookies. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

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Please sign up to prepare communion, open & close the building, and host youth devotionals for the rest of 2019. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Rosalba Barton's nephew, Victor (Alex) Martinez is at DeTar Hospital. Virginia Escojido's sister, Josephine Hinchey, who will be having bladder surgery July 5th. Also, Virginia Escojido's friend from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in North Carolina, was diagnosed with a tumor on his kidney.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11: MidTown hosts Area Summer Youth Series  
July 14: Quarterly Men's Business Meeting @ 3pm

## AREA EVENTS

July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp  
Aug. 10: Adams Street Ladies' Day in Beeville  
Sept. 21: San Pedro C of C Ladies' Day in San Antonio

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Leon Morales, Scott DeDear (2)

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**To Our Visitors:** We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

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## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Dee Gilpatrick  
Wayne Martin  
Ann Pantel  
Mickey Tisue  
Clark Withers

### SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson  
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

# MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Minister:** Ronnie Scherffius  
**Secretary:** Nina Siegel

## TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM  
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM  
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of June 23, 2019

Bible Class.....90  
A.M. Worship.....118  
P.M. Worship.....81  
Wednesday Bible Study.....80

Offering      \$4,436

## *THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT*

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

Acts 1—Acts 7



## SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli  
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock  
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore  
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

## GO PAPERLESS!

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or visit [www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

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