

## “SAMUEL, SAUL, DAVID, and ANGELS”

(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he spoke thus: "Come, let us go to the seer"; for he who is now called a prophet was formerly called a seer.)  
(1 Samuel 9:9 NKJV)

In many ways Samuel is a person who marks several important transitions in the history of Israel. As the verse above says until Samuel the word “seer” was generally used concerning someone who brought the word of the LORD to the people. Beginning with Samuel, God’s messengers were generally call “prophets.” There were exceptions, as there always are when there is a transition period. Well before Samuel, a prophecy of the coming of Christ, Moses referred to himself as a prophet. "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, (Deuteronomy 18:15 NKJV)  
Samuel is sometimes called a seer and sometimes a prophet. There were a few men after him called seers, but generally Samuel marks a change from seers to prophets in the Old Testament.

Samuel was a political leader. He led the Israelites in the change from tribalism to nationhood. But the saddest moment of his life was when the people demanded a king like other nations. Samuel was comforted by God who said, “They have not rejected you, they have rejected me.”

Samuel was a powerful religious leader. For four hundred years the Israelites had turned to idolatry and lawlessness time and again. They would sink into sinfulness and worshiping pagan gods and God would allow a heathen king to conquer and rule over them. When the oppression became unbearable, the Israelites would cry out to God who would send a deliverer. After liberating them, the deliverer would judge them according to God’s Law. This would last until the judge had died. The revival led by Samuel lasted for hundreds of years.

1.) So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD. Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD. (1 Samuel 3:19-21 NKJV)  
In the lives of Samuel, Saul, and David we don't usually see angels appearing to them. We see the working of angels who are acting for God. Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14 NKJV)

There are two such events in the life of Samuel which are surely the activity of angels. The first involved the Ark of God. The Israelites brought the Ark to the battle with the Philistines. The Ark was captured by the Philistines. They placed it in the temple of Dagon in Ashdod. The first night the idol Dagon fell over before the Ark. The second night when it fell over, the head was broken off of the idol. Then a plague of tumors struck the people of Ashdod. They sent the Ark to Gath. The same plague struck the people of Gath. The people of Gath sent it to Ekron. The leaders of Ekron decided to return the Ark to Israel. The wagon carrying the Ark, pulled by milk cows, went directly for the Israeli town of Beth-Shemesh.

Years later Samuel was in the midst of leading a revival at Mizpah. Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines." So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. (1 Samuel 7:3-4 NKJV)

The Philistines heard that all Israel was gathered at Mizpah and decided to attack. As Samuel was offering a sacrifice the people saw thousands of Philistine coming to attack them. They told Samuel not to stop pleading to the LORD for them. As they went out to meet the Philistines there was such mighty thunders from heaven that the Philistines fled. The Israelites chased, slaughtering them all the way.

