

## **Samuel—Priest, Prophet, and Judge**

"Since the days of Joshua the government had never been conducted with so great wisdom and success as under Samuel's administration. Divinely invested with the threefold office of judge, prophet, and priest, he had labored with untiring and disinterested zeal for the welfare of his people, and the nation had prospered under his wise control. Order had been restored, and godliness promoted, and the spirit of discontent was checked for the time. But with advancing years the prophet was forced to share with others the cares of government, and he appointed his two sons to act as his assistants. While Samuel continued the duties of his office at Ramah, the young men were stationed at Beersheba, to administer justice among the people near the southern border of the land." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 603, 604.

SUNDAY

### **MINISTERING BEFORE THE LORD**

#### **1. What service did Samuel perform from the very beginning, when he was just a boy?**

**1 SAMUEL 3:1** *And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.*

"Young as he was when brought to minister in the tabernacle, Samuel had even then duties to perform in the service of God, according to his capacity. These were at first very humble, and not always pleasant; but they were performed to the best of his ability, and with a willing heart...." —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 144.

MONDAY

### **CALLED TO BE A PROPHET**

#### **2. What call did Samuel receive while he was ministering in the sanctuary?**

**1 SAMUEL 3:4, 5, 10, 11** *That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. <sup>5</sup>And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.... <sup>10</sup>And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.*

"Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord, and God revealed Himself to him in his childhood and youth. We must labor far more for our children and for the youth; for God will accept them to do great things in His name in teaching the truth to those in foreign lands, to those who are in the darkness of error and superstition. If you indulge your children, gratifying their selfish wishes; if you encourage in them the love of dress, and develop vanity and pride, you will do a work that will disappoint Jesus, who has paid an infinite price for their redemption. He desires that the children shall serve Him with undivided affection." —*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 319.

TUESDAY

### 3. How widely in Israel was it known that Samuel was a prophet appointed by the Lord?

**1 SAMUEL 3:20** *And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.*

"During the years since the Lord first manifested Himself to the son of Hannah, Samuel's call to the prophetic office had come to be acknowledged by the whole nation. By faithfully delivering the divine warning to the house of Eli, painful and trying as the duty had been, Samuel had given proof of his fidelity as Jehovah's messenger; 'and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.'" —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 589, 590.

WEDNESDAY

#### SERVED AS JUDGE

### 4. What other office did Samuel occupy for his entire life? What did this mean year after year?

**1 SAMUEL 7:15-17** *And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. <sup>16</sup>And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places. <sup>17</sup>And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the Lord.*

"Samuel had judged Israel from his youth. He had been a righteous and impartial judge, faithful in all his work." —*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, p. 65.

"'And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah.' The death of Samuel was regarded as an irreparable loss by the nation of Israel. A great and good prophet and an eminent judge had fallen in death, and the grief of the people was deep and heartfelt. From his youth up Samuel had walked before Israel in the integrity of his heart; although Saul had been the acknowledged king, Samuel had wielded a more powerful influence than he, because his record was one of faithfulness, obedience, and devotion. We read that he judged Israel all the days of his life." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 663.

## 5. Whom did Samuel appoint as judge when he became older and was no longer able to travel on long journeys? How faithful were they?

**1 SAMUEL 8:1-3** *And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. <sup>2</sup>Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba. <sup>3</sup>And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.*

"These young men had received faithful instructions from their father, both by precept and example. They were not ignorant of the warnings given to Eli, and the divine judgments visited upon him and his house. They were apparently men of sterling virtue and integrity, as well as intellectual promise. It was with the full assent of the people that Samuel shared with his sons the responsibilities of office. But the characters of these young men were yet to be tested. Separated from their father's influence, it would be seen whether they were true to the principles which he had taught them. The result showed that Samuel had been painfully deceived in his sons. Like many young men of today who have been blessed with good abilities, they perverted their God-given powers. The honor bestowed upon them rendered them proud and self-sufficient. They did not make the glory of God their aim, nor did they seek earnestly to Him for strength and wisdom. Yielding to the power of temptation, they became avaricious, selfish, and unjust. God's word declares that 'they walked not in His ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.'" —*Signs of the Times*, February 2, 1882.

FRIDAY

## **ISRAEL ASKED FOR A KING**

## 6. After many years of administration of the nation by the judges, what request did the elders of Israel present to Samuel? What did he think of this proposal?

**1 SAMUEL 8:4-7** *Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, <sup>5</sup>And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. <sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord. <sup>7</sup>And the Lord said unto Samuel, Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.*

"Depending on men has been the great weakness of the church. Men have dishonored God by failing to appreciate His sufficiency, by coveting the influence of men. Thus Israel became weak. The people wanted to be like the other nations of the world, and they asked for a king. They desired to be guided by human power which they could see, rather than by the divine, invisible power that till that time had led and guided them, and had given them victory in battle. They made their own choice, and the result was seen

in the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the nation." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 249, 250.

SABBATH

## **7. Although a monarchy was not according to God's ideal, how did Samuel carry out His command?**

**1 SAMUEL 9:15, 16; 10:1** Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, <sup>16</sup>To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.... <sup>10:1</sup> Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

"But the people would not receive the advice of Samuel and continued to demand a king.... Here God granted to rebellious Israel that which would prove a heavy curse to them, because they would not submit to have the Lord rule for them. They thought that it would be more honorable in the sight of other nations to have it said, The Hebrews have a king. The Lord directed Samuel to anoint Saul as king of Israel. His appearance was noble, such as would suit the pride of the children of Israel. But God gave them an exhibition of His displeasure. It was not a season of the year when they were visited with heavy rains, accompanied with thunder." —*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4A, pp. 67, 68.

### **FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY**

"The injustice of these judges caused much dissatisfaction, and a pretext was thus furnished for urging the change that had long been secretly desired.... The cases of abuse among the people had not been referred to Samuel. Had the evil course of his sons been known to him, he would have removed them without delay; but this was not what the petitioners desired. Samuel saw that their real motive was discontent and pride, and that their demand was the result of a deliberate and determined purpose." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 604.

"The life of Samuel from early childhood had been a life of piety and devotion. He had been placed under the care of Eli in his youth, and the loveliness of his character drew forth the warm affection of the aged priest. He was kind, generous, diligent, obedient, and respectful....

"How touching to see youth and old age relying one upon the other, the youth looking up to the aged for counsel and wisdom, the aged looking to the youth for help and sympathy. This is as it should be. God would have the young possess such qualifications of character that they shall find delight in the friendship of the old, that they may be united in the endearing bonds of affection to those who are approaching the borders of the grave." —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 144.

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## MISSIONARY REPORT FROM THE HONDURAN FIELD

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*To be read on Sabbath, June 28, 2025*

*The Special Sabbath School Offering  
will be gathered on Sabbath, July 5, 2025*

The believers in Honduras cordially greet the entire church of God around the world with a fraternal hug! *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* 3 John 1:2.

Honduras, which is located in the heart of Central America, with its capital in Tegucigalpa, obtained its independence from Spain on September 15, 1821. Its official language is Spanish, and its currency is the Lempira. The territory spans 112,492 square kilometers (69,900 square miles) and has a population of 9.5 million. Its borders touch both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Honduras is characterized by being the most mountainous country in the region; and it has many natural resources, flora, and fauna. It borders the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. A survey carried out in 2020 listed 49 percent of the population as professing Catholicism; 40 percent, Protestantism; 8 percent, none; and 3 percent, other faiths.

The message of the International Missionary Society reached Honduras in the 1960s and was established in the capital city of Tegucigalpa. Elder Raul Escobar (Chile) and Nautilio Bolaños (Costa Rica) did a wonderful work of canvassing. Shortly afterward, Elder Carlos Kozel (Germany) visited the country as a representative of the General Conference, accompanied by Brother Pedro Prieto (Mexico). The latter visited the community of San Jose, Department of Choluteca, with Elder Escobar a little later, where they found many Adventist believers. Brother Santos Felix Barahona first accepted the message of Reformation, and he shared it with his daughter, Juanita Barahona, who later married Brother Roberto Lopez. This couple were missionaries who travelled to other places in the country.

The church in Honduras is duly established and organized. It meets all of the requirements of the General Conference and is registered and in compliance with the laws of the country and the constitution of the Republic of Honduras.

The Honduran Field currently has 3 active ministers, 1 retired minister, 18 active Bible workers, 6 ordained elders, and 2 canvassers. It is divided into six districts with their respective leaders, and 360 members are spread throughout the country. Evangelistic work is carried out in two health centers and a school with three educational levels. Public campaigns are organized in different places with medical teams, and

missionary outreach is conducted from house to house with massive distribution of small pamphlets taken from the Spirit of prophecy.

As is already known in the Latin American Division and the General Conference, Honduras is a field that lacks an adequate headquarters building. It has only a poorly equipped office that is used by the president, secretary, and treasurer. There is no meeting room or offices, so when leaders visit us, there are no facilities available to accommodate them. Furthermore, the regulations of the government of Honduras require that the field have a building that meets the needs of a non-profit Christian organization.

Therefore, we make an appeal and pray that God will touch the generous hearts of our brothers, sisters, and friends in the world who read this missionary report, so that they will give support, pray, and contribute generous offerings, knowing that God rewards the cheerful giver. Our desire is to build a headquarters building with appropriate offices where we can work for the honor and glory of God.

May He bless your donations richly and abundantly.

*—Pastor Inocencio Guardado Mejía  
President of the Honduran Field*