

## The Faith of Samuel

(Hebrews 11:32)

### Introduction:

1. In Hebrews 11 we read about a number of people from the Old Testament who showed how faith will enable a person to obtain "*a good report*" (vs.2).
2. In vs.32 Samuel is mentioned with several other great leaders of Israel.
  - a. From a very young age, Samuel was trained by Eli to serve as Israel's leader.
  - b. Samuel eventually served Israel as a prophet, a priest, and a judge.

### Discussion:

- I. (1 Samuel 4:1-18) ISRAEL NEEDED A LEADER
  - A. (vs.1-11) The Philistines:
    1. defeated the Israelites in battle
    2. took the ark of the covenant from Israel
    3. killed Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas.
  - B. (vs.12-18) Eli also died.
  - C. Fortunately, God had said in 1 Samuel 2:35 that He would raise up "*a faithful priest*" who would do His will.
- II. (1 Samuel 7) ISRAEL PROSPERED UNDER SAMUEL'S LEADERSHIP
  - A. (vs.1-9) Samuel led the Israelites back to God.
  - B. (vs.10-14) Israel defeated the Philistines and reclaimed the land that the Philistines had taken.
- III. SAMUEL HAD A GOOD INFLUENCE UPON ISRAEL THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE
  - A. (1 Samuel 7:15-17) Samuel judged Israel "*all the days of his life.*"
  - B. (1 Samuel 12) At an advanced age, Samuel rebuked the Israelites for requesting a king, and he prayed for them.
  - C. (1 Samuel 25:1) The response of the Israelites to Samuel's death is an indication of the influence that he had upon them.
- IV. SAMUEL ANOINTED ISRAEL'S FIRST TWO KINGS
  - A. (1 Samuel 9:25-10:1) Samuel anointed Saul.
  - B. (1 Samuel 16:1-13) Samuel also anointed David.