

People of Faith

(Lesson 17)

Introduction:

1. In Hebrews 11 we read about a number of men and women from the Old Testament who illustrate 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.
3. This lesson is the second of a 2-part study of Samuel's life.

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 through a prophet 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.