

Introduction To Expository Study in I Samuel

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II Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

In order to be perfect, we need to take the whole Word of God and study it—go over it, don't just read it, but study it over and over. In the whole Word of God there is great inspiration. As we go through the book of I Samuel, remember that it is the inspiration of God on His Word that will enlighten our paths, show us our errors, and thoroughly furnish us with profitable doctrine to make us perfect before God.

It has often been said that there is not one verse, yea, not a word in the Bible that doesn't have some specific meaning. Nothing has been put there to take up space, but every word has inspiration. A Baptist may get one inspiration, and it will be good and applicable. A Methodist might get another kind of inspiration, and a Pentecostal may receive yet another inspirational thought—all out of the same verse.

There was a woman who owned a very large brewing company who attended church. The church must not have been a very spiritual church, because the pastor told her it was all right if she continued to brew beer and sell it. However, one day she read where it said, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak," Romans 14:21. After reading these words, she sold her brewery. As I read about this in the evening paper, I realized that she had received her inspiration from the Word of God. It furnished her with doctrine, so she no longer manufactured beer for anyone.

In our study of this book, we are going to see inspiration developing that will lead us into doctrine and furnish us with reproof, so we may better know the will of God for our individual lives.

If you are a child of God, you *are* a man or woman of God. We use child as meaning children of the Lord. Since our Father is Great and Mighty, we are as children to Him, but God wants every one of us to be a man or woman of God, and He wants us to be furnished in everything we need to be perfect.

As we go through this study, you will find some of the people in Bible days are like yourself. If you pay close attention, you will hear God, as he points out your particular hang-ups—God will show you yourself. Once we recognize our specific problems, through prayer and God's Grace we can change.