

## 1 Samuel

<b>The Title and Samuel, the Person</b>	1 and 2 Samuel derive their name from the prophet Samuel. He's an important figure in the OT for several reasons. (1) He is a transitional hinge between the period of the Judges of Israel and the Israelite Monarchy. (2) He acts as a judge, but functions as a prophet. Therefore, Samuel also begins a time in her history when the presence/office of prophet is going to come into full view. (3) He's not just a prophet, and judge (i.e., close to a king before a king), he's also a priest. As a result, he occupies the three offices in the land: prophet, priest, and king (judge), foreshadowing the person of Christ.
<b>The Significance of Samuel's Message</b>	Samuel restored law, order, and regular religious worship in the land. Remember that in the Book of Judges, Israel was in an endless cycle of forgetting the Lord, worshipping idols, and crying out to the Lord to be delivered. As a result, Samuel comes along and essentially says "the only way out of the cycle is to honor the Lord." In 1 Sam 2:30, we read: "those that honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained."
<b>A Most Significant Theme (Positive)</b>	In light of Samuel's call to honor the Lord, it should come as no surprise that the major theme of 1 Samuel is honoring the Lord. For example, Hannah honored the Lord and requested a child. The Lord honored her with Samuel in return. Samuel honored the Lord by listening to the Spirit and obeying God. The Lord used him mightily at a time most needed. Saul did not continue to honor the Lord, so the Lord appointed David to replace him as king. David exercised great faith in the Lord, particularly as a youth. Consequently, the Lord blessed him to be able to slay Goliath.
<b>A Most Significant Theme (Negative)</b>	1 Samuel also deals with kingship of Israel. In the Book of Judges, we read time and time again that "everyone did what was right in their own eyes because there was no king in the land." The "king" was supposed to be the Lord their God. But they didn't read it this way. Instead, they want a king in order to be like the nations surrounding them. And Samuel gives them precisely what they ask for in the person of Saul. Consequently, another key theme in a negative sense is the trouble that arises when God's people want to be like the world. When they do, they will look like the world. <u>And have nothing therefore to offer the world.</u>
<b>Additional Points of Emphasis</b>	Though "honoring the Lord" is the major theme that runs through the book, there are others that are also important to note: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Kingship</u> – In this period, the people of God go from a loosely based affiliated group of tribes to a unified nation under a form of government headed by a king. But it's different for Israel in that God is designated as the divine king. And he will designate a human "vice-king" (for lack of better terminology) to rule over his people: David. David's house will be the legitimate rulers of Israel in fulfillment of the promise that the scepter will never depart from Judah, David's tribe.</li> <li>2. <u>Providence</u> – God makes everyday events work for the purposes for which He intends. He uses Hannah's tumultuous relationship with Peninnah to lead to Samuel. He leads Saul to Samuel during Saul's search for lost mules. And He causes David to learn about Goliath while taking food to his brothers.</li> <li>3. <u>Reversal of Normal Human Patterns</u> – Hannah's barrenness gives way to children. Samuel becomes prophet instead of Eli's sons. Saul rises to prominence though he was from a lowly tribe. David was anointed king though he was the youngest son.</li> </ol>
<b>Key Verses</b>	<i>"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."</i> (1 Sam 15:22)
<b>Flow of the Book</b>	One of the best features of 1 Samuel is that it can be divided into three main sections, each of which focuses on a different person. Chapters 1-7 recount the actions of Samuel, the prophet, priest, and quasi-king. Chapters 8-15 focus on Saul, the first king of Israel. And Chapters 16-31 describe the rise of David.

### Samuel (1-7)

#### 1. Hannah's Mistreatment and Barrenness Leads to Her Reversal

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite<sup>[a]</sup> from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. <sup>2</sup>He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. . . . <sup>6</sup>Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. <sup>7</sup>This went on year after year. . . . <sup>15</sup>"Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. <sup>16</sup>Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." <sup>17</sup>Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of

him” . . . <sup>27</sup> I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. <sup>28</sup> So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” (1:1-2; 6-7; 15-17; 27-28)

## 2. Eli's Sons Should Have Been But They Weren't. Samuel Shouldn't Have Been But He Was. All Because of Honor.

<sup>12</sup> Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord. . . . <sup>22</sup> Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. <sup>23</sup> So he said to them, “Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. <sup>24</sup> No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the Lord's people is not good. <sup>25</sup> If one person sins against another, God<sup>[d]</sup> may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the Lord, who will intercede for them?” His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the Lord's will to put them to death. <sup>26</sup> And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people (2:12; 22-26)

## 3. Eli's Apathy Leads to Shame. Samuel's Honor Leads to Being Installed by God as Prophet.

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. <sup>12</sup> At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God,<sup>[a]</sup> and he failed to restrain them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’” . . . <sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.” <sup>19</sup> The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. (3:11-14; 18-20)

## 4. After the Philistines Capture the Ark and Then It Returns, Samuel Subdues Them. Then Calls Them to Honor God.

<sup>12</sup> Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer,<sup>[b]</sup> saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.” <sup>13</sup> So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel's territory. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines.’ (7:12-13)

### Saul (8-15)

## 1. Israel Has For a King and God Gives Them What They Want.

<sup>10</sup> Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup> He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. <sup>12</sup> Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. <sup>15</sup> He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. <sup>16</sup> Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle<sup>[c]</sup> and donkeys he will take for his own use. <sup>17</sup> He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. <sup>18</sup> When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.” <sup>19</sup> But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. <sup>20</sup> Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.” <sup>21</sup> When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. <sup>22</sup> The Lord answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.” (8:10-21)

## 2. Saul Looks the Part:

(1) He's a Benjamite (i.e., the least ruling over the greater; (2) He's good looking; (3) He's respectful and submissive to the anointing conferred by Samuel.

## 3. For a While, Saul Acts Honorably (Example: Saving the City of Jabesh)

<sup>12</sup> The people then said to Samuel, “Who was it that asked, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Turn these men over to us so that we may put them to death.” <sup>13</sup> But Saul said, “No one will be put to death today, for this day the Lord has rescued Israel.” <sup>14</sup> Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.” <sup>15</sup> So all the people went to Gilgal and made Saul king in the presence of the Lord. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration. (11:12-15)

## 4. But Disobedience at Gilgal Changes Everything

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.<sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. <sup>9</sup> So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And

Saul offered up the burnt offering.<sup>10</sup> Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. <sup>11</sup> “What have you done?” asked Samuel. . . <sup>13</sup> “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. <sup>14</sup> But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.” (13:7-11; 13-14)

## David (16-31)

### 1. When Others See a Shepherd Boy, God Sees a King

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” <sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” <sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” (16:7-11)

### 2. The Goliath Story Shows Us Why

<sup>10</sup> Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.”<sup>11</sup> On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. . . <sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (17:10, 45)

### 3. Do Not Lift Up Your Hand Against the Lord’s Anointed. For Even If He Is Anointed For Destruction, He’s Still Anointed.

<sup>3</sup> He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. <sup>4</sup> The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said<sup>[b]</sup> to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. <sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. <sup>6</sup> He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.” <sup>7</sup> With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. (24:3-7)

### 4. Saul’s Days Are Numbered vs David Begins the Process of Repelling — Permanently — Israel’s Arch-Nemesis: The Philistines

- a. **Saul Consults a Medium at Endor (Forbidden). She Summons Samuel (God’s Providence Over Evil Practices). Who Says This to Saul:**
  - i. <sup>16</sup> Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the Lord has departed from you and become your enemy? <sup>17</sup> The Lord has done what he predicted through me. The Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David. <sup>18</sup> Because you did not obey the Lord or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has done this to you today. <sup>19</sup> The Lord will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.” (28:16-19)
- b. **But David Begins Preparations**
  - i. <sup>11</sup> So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel. (29:1)
  - ii. The last verse sets up 2 Samuel