



1 Samuel

Jesus Christ, Our King

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Book of 1 Samuel

The Septuagint considered 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings one unified composition, "The Book of Kingdoms."

The 4 subparts of the book are Kingdoms Alpha, Kingdoms Beta, Kingdoms Gamma, Kingdoms Delta.

In modern Hebrew Bibles the 4 books are called *Sh'mu'el Alef*, *Sh'mu'el Bet*, *M'lakhim Alef*, *M'lakhim Bet*.

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1

F-L-I-G-H-T

- F** – The author of 1 Samuel is not known for certain. Many scholars believe that Samuel compiled the information & then communicated it to the prophets Nathan & Gad, who then wrote it down.
- L** – After the time of the judges, Israel was on a collision course with chaos & captivity. True leadership was sadly lacking. The people had strayed from God. The book tells the stories of men & women who, in their distress, called on the Lord.

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F-L-I-G-H-T

- I** – Samuel & Eli (prophet vs priest, 1-7), Samuel & Saul (prophet vs king, 8-15), Saul & David (king vs successor, 16-13)
- G** – It had always been God's plan that someday He would rule through a king. However the Israelites pushed the issue & didn't wait on God's timing; that's how they ended up with Saul. David, a man after God's own heart, of the tribe of Judah, was an ancestor of Jesus, King of Kings, prophesied Son of David.

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F - L - I - G - H - T

H - 1 Samuel begins with the birth of Samuel, follows the transformation of Israel from tribal alliances to a united monarchy, concludes with the death of Saul (1105 BC-1009 BC)

T - Saul failed to take sin seriously & placed reputation over character. God looks at a person's heart; we so often look at their appearance. He regularly chooses to use unlikely people, & he does it to remind us that He is in charge.

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Far-Reaching Influence

“Though **Moses** and **Samuel** stood before me...” (Jer. 15:1)

By a prophet [**Moses**] the LORD brought Israel up from Egypt, and by a prophet [**Samuel**] he was guarded. (Hosea 12:13)

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Hannah's Vow

Other vows: “If you will do X, then I will do Y.”

Hannah's vow: “If you will give me X, then I will give you X.

Samuel is not only a gift *from* God, but also a gift *to* God.

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Prayer of Hannah/Song of Mary

Hannah	Mary
1 Sam. 1:18	Luke 1:38,30
1 Sam. 1:11	Luke 1:48
1 Sam. 1:18	Luke 2:7
1 Sam. 1:3; 2:19	Luke 2:41
1 Sam. 2:20	Luke 2:39
1 Sam. 2:21,26	Luke 2:40,52

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Israel Asks for a King

- The elders of Israel request that Samuel appoint a king over them.
- Samuel attempts to dissuade them from what he perceives as foolishness.
- God decides on the matter. Three times he instructs Samuel to “listen to the voice of the people.”

Saul Chosen King

In three different ways:

- By God – God chose & anointed him. (10:1)
- By chance – He is made king by lot. (10:21)
- By his own proven capacity for leadership – The people made him king after his successful deliverance of Jabesh-gilead. (11:15)

Textual Problem

Saul was...years old when he began to reign, and he reigned...and two years over Israel (1 Sam. 13:1)

Fortunately, two other sources indicate that Saul ruled for 40 years: in Acts 13:21 Paul states that Saul ruled 40 years. Josephus' *Antiquities* also attributes a 40-year reign to Saul.

It is possible that the 40 years is a round number. The text may have originally read “42 years.”

Serious Blunders

- When Samuel fails to show up after a seven-day waiting period, Saul takes matters into his own hands and offers sacrifices. He has overstepped his bounds as king, doing what only priests are supposed to do. (1 Sam. 13)

Serious Blunders

- Saul was to attack & utterly destroy the Amalekites. No person or thing was to be spared. But Saul spared the Amalekite king Agag and the best of the sheep & cattle. He failed to comply with the instructions Israel had been given concerning the Amalekites. (1 Sam. 15)

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Replacing the Rejected

David emerges as the divinely chosen replacement to the disqualified Saul to be Israel's king.

What the people had earlier done to God, has now done to Saul:

"They have rejected me from being king." (8:7)

"I have rejected him from being king." (16:1)

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Spirit and Skill

God uses a skill already possessed by David (playing the lyre, slinging stones) in a situation that surfaces unexpectedly (Saul's sickness, Goliath's intimidating taunts of Israel).

The Spirit of the Lord that comes mightily on David is the real source behind David's ministry to Saul (ch. 16) and his elimination of Goliath (ch. 17)

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14

Saul vs. David in Distress

"Saul answered, 'I am in great distress.'" (28:15)

What did Saul do? He consulted a medium.

"David was in great danger." (30:6)

What did David do? "He strengthened himself in the Lord his God."

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