

I SAMUEL

BASIC INFO

- ✍️ **Author:** Samuel, Nathan, Gad
- 📅 **Date written:** 1000 – 960 BC
- 📍 **Settings :** Israel

MAIN CHARACTERS



SAMUEL



SAUL



DAVID



HANNAH



ELI






KEY THEMES

- God's Sovereignty in Leadership** – God graciously raises up and removes leaders according to their faithfulness.
- Obedience vs. Disobedience** – Saul's downfall and David's rise show the consequences of obeying or rejecting God.
- Faith Over Fear** – David's victory over Goliath shows that reliance on God's grace brings true spiritual victory.
- God Looks at the Heart** – While men focus on outward appearance, God values inner character.
- The Role of Prophets & Kings** – Samuel's leadership highlights the transition from judges to monarchy.

SUMMARY

First Samuel begins in a quiet village where barren Hannah prays for a child and vows to give him back to God. Her son Samuel grows up in the tabernacle at Shiloh and learns to hear the Lord's voice in the night. When Israel treats the Ark like a lucky charm, the Philistines capture it, but plagues force them to send it home, showing God's sovereign power needs no human defence. Years later the people demand a king. Samuel warns them yet anoints humble Saul, who unites the tribes and wins early battles. Power soon tests Saul's heart. He offers an impatient sacrifice, spares Amalek's king, and refuses to repent. Samuel declares, "Obedience is better than sacrifice," then secretly anoints the shepherd boy David. God's Spirit leaves Saul, and David's harp soothes the troubled king before David defeats Goliath with a sling. Jealousy turns Saul against his champion. Jonathan, Saul's son, makes a covenant of friendship with David and helps him escape. Wilderness hideouts, merciful near misses, and songs of trust mark David's long wait. Samuel dies, Saul seeks a medium, and desperate choices lead the once-promising king to fall on his own sword at Mount Gilboa. The book shows that true leadership rests on listening hearts, not outward stature, and that God quietly prepares His chosen future in the shadows of human failure.

KEY VERSES

-  **1 Samuel 2:2** – "There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God." – Hannah's prayer exalts God's greatness.
-  **1 Samuel 8:7** – "they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them." – God warns that Israel's demand for a king reflects their rejection of Him.
-  **1 Samuel 16:7** – "for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." – God chooses David based on his heart, not outward appearance.
-  **1 Samuel 17:45** – "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied." – David's faith in God leads to victory over Goliath.
-  **1 Samuel 26:23** – "The Lord render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the Lord's anointed" – David refuses to harm Saul, trusting in God's justice.

JESUS IN THIS BOOK

Hannah's long awaited son foreshadows Mary's virgin Son, Jesus, and her song foretells the LORD exalting "the horn of His Anointed." God also promises to raise up a faithful priest whose ministry will stand forever, anticipating Christ our eternal High Priest. The lost ark's return brings hope of God's glory dwelling with His people. David the humble, Spirit anointed shepherd king from Bethlehem offers the clearest sign, for Jesus who is the King of kings and the Good Shepherd and from Bethlehem. When David defeats Goliath for a trembling nation, he prefigures Jesus conquering sin and death.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1 Samuel teaches that unwavering allegiance to the Lord always surpasses human strength or status. Saul's failure and David's success remind us that by His gracious favour God lifts the humble into communion with Him but resists the proud who exalt themselves. Like David, we must trust in God's power, not our own, when facing challenges. The book also warns against rejecting God's leadership in favour of worldly security, highlighting the grave dangers of misplaced reliance and pride.



1 | SAMUEL'S BIRTH & CALLING 1 SAMUEL 1-3



2 | ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING 1 SAMUEL 4-8



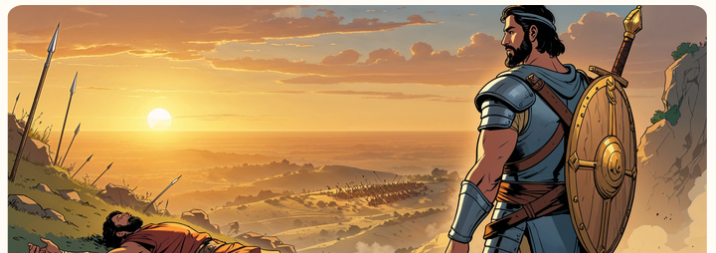
3 | SAUL'S RISE & REBELLION 1 SAMUEL 9-15



4 | DAVID'S RISE 1 SAMUEL 16-23



5 | DAVID SPARES SAUL 1 SAMUEL 24-29



6 | DAVID'S FUTURE 1 SAMUEL 30-31

1 | Samuel's Birth & Calling (1 Samuel 1-3)

Hannah prays for a son, vowing to dedicate him to the Lord. God answers, giving her Samuel, whom she brings to serve under Eli at the tabernacle in Shiloh. One night, Samuel hears the Lord calling him and receives his prophetic mission, marking the start of his leadership.

2 | Israel Demands a King (1 Samuel 4-8)

The Ark is captured after Israel wrongly treats it as a good luck charm; the Philistines also misunderstand its holiness and suffer plagues; in fear they return the Ark to Israel. Samuel calls Israel to repentance, but the people demand a king, rejecting God's direct rule.

3 | Saul's Rise & Rebellion (1 Samuel 9-15)

Saul is anointed as Israel's first king and initially leads successful campaigns. However, his pride, rash decisions, and disobedience cause God to reject him. His failure marks the beginning of Israel's search for a truly faithful leader.

4 | DAVID'S RISE (1 SAMUEL 16-23)

David, a young shepherd, is chosen by God and anointed as the future king. He defeats Goliath with a single stone, wins the people's favor, and serves Saul. But Saul's growing jealousy turns him into David's enemy, forcing David to flee.

5 | David Spares Saul (1 Samuel 24-29)

Despite multiple chances to kill Saul, David refuses, honoring the Lord's anointed until God Himself removes him. He lives in exile among the Philistines, leading raids while waiting for God's timing to take the throne and forges a covenant of loyal friendship with Jonathan (Saul's son). His patience and faith stand in contrast to Saul's downfall.

6 | David's Future (1 Samuel 30-31)

Before the final battle, Saul's desperation drives him to a medium at Endor, sealing his rejection of God. David rescues his people from the Amalekites while Saul and his sons fall in battle against the Philistines at Mount Gilboa. Saul's death ends his tragic reign, paving the way for David's rise as Israel's next king.