



What is It?

The book of 1 Samuel continues the history of God's relationship with his chosen people. It connects the era when judges ruled Israel with the time of the kings.

Who, What, When, Where and WHY

Who – We don't know who wrote 1 Samuel, but some have suggested Zabud, son of Nathan the prophet. It was written to the kingdoms of Judah and Israel (the "divided kingdom"), to Jews throughout history, and to us.

What – The 31 chapters of 1 Samuel covers the tumultuous time leading up to David's reign as king of Israel. It's filled with war, politics, family relations, the search for power, friendship, and so much more.

When – 1 Samuel was written around 900 BC and covers events from around 1100 to 1010 BC. For perspective, the Minoan civilization on Crete and other places in Greece was just ending.

Where – 1 Samuel was probably written in ancient Jerusalem or nearby. The events take place throughout Palestine (within the modern state of Israel and the West Bank).

Why – This book's main characters has flaws and strengths – some are blessed by God, some are judged by God – but all play a role in fulfilling God's plan for His chosen people. Take note of God's abundant grace throughout 1 Samuel.

Reading Advice

To get through Exodus in one week you will need to read about 5 to 6 chapters a day (31 chapters/6 days = 5.17 per day). That should be about 25 minutes a day, Monday through Saturday. If you include a Sunday reading, then you can reduce the chapters and/or minutes per day a little.

1 Samuel also reads like a political intrigue novel – sit back and enjoy your readings this week. 2 Samuel will continue the story next week. Hopefully by now you have started to develop a habit (a repeated behavior) of daily Bible reading. Keep going! If you haven't yet, let this week be the start of your habit of getting into God's Word every day. It's the most important habit to get.